

SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI REPORT NO. 516 PUBLISHED ON NOVEMBER 2, 2025

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 25 October to 1st November 2025. It documents cases of human rights violations committed on Burundian territory.

During this period, two (2) people were murdered in the provinces of Bujumbura and Gitega.

The report also denounces the case of two (2) people who were kidnapped by agents of the National Intelligence Service (SNR) and the Imbonerakure¹ in the province of Bujumbura.

1. Violation of the right to life

- On Saturday, October 25, 2025, in the morning, the lifeless body of a woman identified as Jeanine Niyonzima, 42 years old, was found near her home located on the 2nd avenue of the Magarama district, in the commune and province of Gitega.

According to the testimony of the victim's neighbors, Jeanine Niyonzima had been divorced for 15 years and lived alone in her house. She had been seen the day before in good health. The circumstances and cause of his death remain to be determined.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for the opening of a thorough and impartial investigation in order to establish the circumstances of the death and to identify those responsible with a view to punishing them in accordance with the law.

¹ Members of the youth league affiliated to the ruling CNDD-FDD (National Council for the Defense of Democracy-Forces for the Defense of Democracy) party.

- On Saturday, October 25, 2025, during the night, a lifeless body of an unidentified man, aged about 70, was discovered hanging from an avocado tree, not far from his home, on the hill of Gitwenge, Ngoro zone, commune of Matongo, in the province of Butanyerera.

According to eyewitnesses, the circumstances of his death are still unclear. Residents of Gitwenge hill believe that this man was killed by as-yet-unidentified individuals, who then hanged his body in order to make it look like a suicide and thus cover the tracks of a possible investigation.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls for the opening of a thorough and impartial investigation to elucidate the exact circumstances of his death and to identify the perpetrators so that they can be punished in accordance with the law.

2. Cases of abduction or enforced disappearance

- On Thursday, October 30, 2025, in the morning, agents of the National Intelligence Service (SNR), supported by Imbonerakure, kidnapped two men, Egide Nishimwe (chief of Gasebeyi hill) and his neighbor Ndikumana, nicknamed Basoda, from their homes located on Gasebeyi hill, Buhoro zone, Mugina commune, Bujumbura province.

According to family members, SNR and Imbonerakure agents surrounded the homes of Egide Nishimwe and Ndikumana in the early morning. They then arrested them and took them to an unknown destination, aboard a Toyota Hilux double-cab van with registration number D3984A driven by the head of communal intelligence of Cibitoke.

The same sources specify that, since their abduction, the families have no news of these two men. They have carried out searches in all the cells in the region, without success, including those in Bujumbura.

Police sources indicate that the two men, former CNL² party activists who have converted to the CNDD-FDD, are suspected of having links with the RED³ Tabara rebel movement, based in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). These allegations are rejected by their families and several local residents.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls on the General Administration of the SNR to reveal the whereabouts of these two men and to communicate their fate, in accordance with Burundi's legal human rights obligations.

SOS-Torture/Burundi was initiated with the aim of informing national and international opinion about the serious human rights violations underway in Burundi through monitoring reports, particularly on torture, arbitrary arrests, enforced disappearances, sexual violence and summary executions.

This initiative to inform about the realities of the country followed the carnage of a hundred people killed during the day of December 11 and December 12, 2015 by police and soldiers under the pretext of pursuing rebels who had just attacked military camps located on the outskirts of the capital.

The affected areas are said to be protest areas of President Nkurunziza's third term, namely Musaga, Mutakura, Cibitoke, Nyakabiga, Jabe, the last two being located in the center of the Bujumbura City Hall.

² National Congress for Freedom

³ Resistance for a State of Law.