

SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI REPORT NO. 552 PUBLISHED ON JULY 12, 2026

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 4 to 11 July 2026. It documents cases of human rights violations committed on Burundian territory.

During this period, more than eighty (80) men and young men were arbitrarily arrested in Bujumbura province.

1. Violation of the right to freedom of movement: arbitrary arrests and detentions

- On Monday, July 6, 2026, during the day, elements of the Burundi National Police (PNB) and the Imbonerakure¹ arbitrarily arrested more than eighty (80) men and young men during a "control operation" in downtown Bujumbura and took them in police trucks to the cells of the municipal police station located in the premises of the former Special Research Bureau (BSR).

According to eyewitnesses, many men and young men were arrested in different locations in the economic capital, including around Bata and at bus stops. These arrests targeted those they suspected of not having a job in Bujumbura, while they were simply going about their various activities.

SOS-Torture Burundi denounces these arbitrary arrests which violate the constitutional right to freedom of movement: "*All Burundian citizens have the right to move and settle freely anywhere in the national territory as well as to leave and return to it*" (art. 33 of the Constitution), and calls for respect for individual rights and freedoms.

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.

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.