

SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI REPORT NO. 554 PUBLISHED ON JULY 26, 2026

This report of SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 18 to 25 July 2026. It documents cases of human rights violations committed on Burundian territory.

During this period, two (2) teenagers were killed following a grenade explosion in Burunga province.

1. Violation of the right to life

- On Thursday, July 23, 2026, at around 1:00 p.m., two brothers, John Kelly Nkurunziza, 17, and Audry Irangabiye, 14, lost their lives following the explosion of a grenade they were handling at their parents' home, located in the Birongozi district, Rutana Commune, Burunga Province. While one of the brothers died immediately, the other succumbed to his injuries after being admitted to the emergency department of Rutana Hospital.

According to eyewitnesses, police officers who responded to the scene discovered two pools of coagulated blood, a hammer and the ring of the safety pin of a grenade behind the back entrance of the home of their parents, Ildephonse Nkurunziza, a police officer on duty at the Nyanza police station, in the same province of Burunga, and Alice Nshimirimana.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls on the General Inspectorate of the Burundi National Police (PNB) to give clear instructions on the carrying, use and retention of police equipment and weapons.

The organization is calling for an immediate, independent, impartial and thorough investigation to determine the origin of the grenade and to ensure that the police officer concerned is brought to justice in accordance with the law.

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

This initiative to raise awareness about the realities in the country followed the massacre of around one hundred people on December 11 and 12, 2015. The victims were killed by police and soldiers under the pretext of pursuing rebels who had allegedly attacked military camps located on the outskirts of the capital.

The affected neighborhoods were reportedly those that had opposed President Nkurunziza's third term, namely Musaga, Mutakura, Cibitoke, Nyakabiga, and Jabe, the latter two being located in the center of Bujumbura City.