

SOS-TORTURE Burundi REPORT NO. 562 PUBLISHED ON 21 SEPTEMBER 2026

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 13 to 20 September 2026. It documents cases of human rights violations committed on Burundian territory.

During this period, five (5) people were seriously injured in Bujumbura province and two (2) others were arbitrarily arrested in the same province in the context of a widespread persecution directed against the Banyamulenge community living in Burundi.

These arbitrary arrests and detentions attributed to agents of the National Intelligence Service (SNR) raise deep concerns about the respect of the right to life and security of the victims.

These new cases are in addition to those documented in the previous report, which reported three (3) arbitrary arrests, in circumstances comparable to abductions in Bujumbura province.

1. Violation of the right to physical integrity followed by violation of the right to freedom of movement (arbitrary arrests and detentions)

- On Monday, September 14, 2026, late in the afternoon, two members of the CNDD-FDD Women's League¹, "Abakenyererarugamba", Chantal Ndayikeza and Charlotte Mundanikure, violently beat with sticks a woman identified as Emmanuelline Nyandwi, aged 61, , at the headquarters of this ruling party, located on the hill and in the zone of Gihanga Centre, in the commune of Mpanda, Bujumbura province.

According to eyewitnesses, Emmanuelline Nyandwi, a widow residing in the quarter of Ragaza, on the same hill of Gihanga, was violently tortured with sticks kept at the

¹ National Council for the Defence of Democracy-Forces for the Defence of Democracy.

same party office, following an argument with another woman, also a widow, about a man who had visited them. The latter then called these two activists of the Women's League to punish her.

According to the same sources, Chantal Ndayikeza, secretary of the Women's League on Gihanga Hill, and Charlotte Mundanikure, a member of the committee of this league, then arbitrarily arrested the victim before taking her to the Gihanga police cell where she is arbitrarily detained.

- On Tuesday, September 15, 2026, at around 8 p.m., two unemployed youths, identified as Nina Ntwari and Fiston Nzimana, were severely tortured by two police officers, including a judicial police officer (OPJ) identified as Elie Ndikumana, in front of the OPJ office in the Gihanga zone, in the commune of Mpanda, Bujumbura province.

According to eyewitnesses, the two youths, from the Vyondo neighborhood on Gihanga Center Hill, were beaten using big conductive wires, after being laid on the ground and sprayed with water, following charges related to the consumption of hemp.

- On Wednesday, September 16, 2026, during the night, a young man identified as Eric Manirakiza was violently beaten by Imbonerakure², who accused him of public drunkenness on the 5th Transversal, in the Gihanga zone, commune of Mpanda, province of Bujumbura.

According to eyewitnesses, after a long beating, an Imbonerakure leader, named Didier, took him to the Gihanga police station, where he was allegedly subjected to further torture.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls on the competent authorities to promptly conduct independent, impartial, credible, thorough and transparent investigations into all the

² Members of the Youth League affiliated to the ruling CNDD-FDD party.

facts reported in order to identify all the alleged perpetrators and bring them to justice, in accordance with the law. These authorities should particularly ensure that no person involved can benefit from impunity because of their position or political affiliation, and take the necessary measures to put an end to these situations of arbitrary detention.

2. Violation of the right to physical integrity

- On Sunday evening, September 13, 2026, at around 11 p.m., journalist Kenny Claude Nduwimana was violently attacked by near his home, located in the Buterere zone, in the province of Bujumbura, after accompanying visitors.

According to eyewitnesses, Kenny Claude Nduwimana was assaulted by three youths identified as Rama, Yousouf, and Thomas, who hit and wounded him above his left eye (see his photo below). The attackers struck him violently with a plank and remained in the vicinity after the attack. Neighbors intervened to prevent the attack from being extended to his wife and to stop it.



According to the same sources, Kenny Claude Nduwimana alerted the head of the police station of the Buterere zone, police lieutenant Lock Ntawuyamara, who refused to intervene to arrest the attackers. He was taken to a health facility in Bujumbura, where he was taken care of, before returning home.

In addition, in a press release issued on September 15, 2026, Kenny Claude Nduwimana claims to have been the victim of harassment for several days. He cites, in particular, a home invasion by the head of the Buterere zone, who also allegedly took photographs of his house.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls on the competent authorities to open an independent, impartial, thorough and credible investigation without delay in order to identify all the perpetrators of the attack on Kenny Claude Nduwimana and bring them to justice, in accordance with the law. It also urges the same authorities to take the necessary measures to ensure his physical and moral integrity.

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

- On Sunday, September 13, 2026, during the day, agents of the National Intelligence Service (SNR) arbitrarily arrested the wife of Pastor Jalos Nkunda Kilayi, Jacqueline Nyiramasoso, and a young student from the University of Mwaro, a member of the family, named Merci, after a search operation carried out at their home in Bujumbura. They were then taken to the dungeon of the SNR headquarters, located in the Rohero zone, in Bujumbura City Hall, without the reasons for their arrest being communicated to them.

These arrests come in a context of regional tensions, marked by the crisis between Burundi and Rwanda and the continuation of the armed conflict in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls on the Burundian authorities to immediately put an end to all forms of persecution, intimidation and arbitrary arrest against the Banyamulenge community living in Burundi. It urges them to guarantee respect for the fundamental rights, freedom and security of all people living on Burundian territory, in accordance with Burundi's human rights obligations, and to shed light on the reported arrests.

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.