

SOS-TORTURE Burundi REPORT NO. 563 PUBLISHED ON 28 SEPTEMBER 2026

This SOS-Torture Burundi report covers the period from 20 to 27 September 2026. It documents cases of human rights violations committed on Burundian territory.

During this period, one (1) person was seriously injured in Bujumbura province, while other person (1) was arbitrarily arrested in Buhumuza province, in the context of a widespread persecution targeting the Banyamulenge community living in Burundi.

These new cases are in addition to those documented in the previous report, which reported five (5) violations of the right to physical integrity and two (2) arbitrary arrests in the province of Bujumbura, against the Banyamulenge community.

1. Violation of the right to physical integrity

- On Tuesday, September 22, 2026, in the night, a woman member of the CNDD-FDD Women's League¹, "Abakenyererarugamba", named Josélyne and her two sons, members of the Imbonerakure² Youth League, violently beat with sticks a woman identified as Aquiline Nzogirakamaro, , at the 5th Transversal in the Gihanga zone, in the commune of Mpanda, Bujumbura province.

According to eyewitnesses, Josélyne and her sons subsequently sprayed acid on the victim's face, which caused a sudden loss of vision. She was rushed to Saint Augustin Hospital, where she is still hospitalized.

The same sources said that the origin of the conflict was linked to a debt of twenty thousand Burundian francs (20,000 Fbu) that the victim owed to her neighbour Josélyne, who was demanding immediate repayment. After this incident, the three

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

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

alleged attackers, Josélyne and her two sons, were apprehended by the Judicial Police of Gihanga, before being released.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls on the competent Burundian authorities to take all necessary measures to put an end to violence attributed to the leagues affiliated with the ruling party, the CNDD-FDD, to conduct an impartial investigation and to prosecute the alleged perpetrators of the attack on Ms. Aquiline Nzogirakamaro, in accordance with the law.

It also urges the same authorities to ensure that the victim receives adequate care and compensation for the harm she has suffered, and to take concrete measures to end the climate of impunity enjoyed by members of the ruling party, which contributes to the recurrence of such serious human rights violations in Burundi.

2. Violation of the right to freedom of movement: arbitrary arrest and detention

- On Sunday, September 20, 2026, during the day, agents of the National Intelligence Service (SNR) arbitrarily arrested a Congolese refugee and member of the Banyamulenge community, Ntole Rugonderani, about 70 years old, at the Bwagiriza camp for Congolese refugee in Ruyigi commune, Buhumuza province, before taking him to an unknown location.

According to eyewitnesses, no arrest warrant was presented to the victim, who is a well-known catechist of the Community of Assemblies of God in Burundi, in the Bwagiriza camp. Although the reason for his arrest has not been communicated to him, Ntole Rugonderani is believed to be arrested in connection with his recent travel to Rwanda to visit members of his family.

SOS-Torture Burundi reiterates its call on the Burundian authorities to put an end to all forms of persecution, intimidation, and arbitrary arrest targeting the Banyamulenge community living in Burundi. It urges them to guarantee, without

distinction, respect for the fundamental rights, freedom and security of all persons living on Burundian territory, in accordance with Burundi's human rights obligations, and to shed full light on the documented arrests.

Furthermore, the organization commends the release of at least 63 prisoners imprisoned for minor offences in Muramvya prison on 23 September 2026, as part of measures aimed at reducing overcrowding in the prison, with 800 detainees for a capacity of about 100 people. Prison overcrowding has resulted in serious consequences, including the emergence of an undetermined disease that is reportedly caused several deaths. This situation is aggravated by the lack of food and medicines necessary for the care of prisoners.

It calls for these salutary measures to be extended to other prisons in Burundi, which are also affected by prison overcrowding, particularly for political prisoners or prisoners of conscience and those who have already served their sentences.

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 the public 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.