

SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI REPORT NO. 564 PUBLISHED ON 5 OCTOBER 2026

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 27 September to 4 October 2026. It documents cases of human rights violations committed on Burundian territory.

During this period, two (2) people were murdered in Buhumuza province, one (1) journalist was violently assaulted by police officers in Bujumbura province, and another (1) person was abducted by individuals in police uniforms in the same Bujumbura province.

These new cases add to those documented in the previous report, which reported one (1) violation of the right to physical integrity in Bujumbura province and one (1) arbitrary arrest in Buhumuza province.

1. Violation of the right to life

- On the night of Thursday, October 1, 2026, at around 0:30 a.m., a 70-year-old man and his 45-year-old wife were killed in the explosion of a grenade thrown by unidentified individuals at their home, located on Kobero Hill, in Butinda Commune, Buhumuza Province.

According to residents of this locality, four suspects were arrested in the morning of the same day by the local police, as part of an investigation aimed at identifying those responsible and determining the circumstances of this double murder.

SOS-Torture condemns this act of extreme violence and calls on the competent authorities to carry out a prompt, independent, impartial and transparent investigation, in order to establish the facts, identify all those responsible and bring them to justice in accordance with the law and in strict respect of human rights.

The organization also calls on the authorities to guarantee the safety of the civilian population and to take urgent measures to prevent further violence.

2. Violation of the right to physical integrity

- On the evening of Monday, September 28, 2026, journalist Alexis Ndayisenga of Radio-Télévision Isanganiro was briefly arrested and severely beaten by police officers from the Rapid Mobile Intervention Group (GMIR), first at the bus parking lot serving the south of the economic capital, Bujumbura, and then at the police station located on the site of the former central market of Bujumbura, called SOGEMAC¹, as he was returning home at the end of his working day.

According to eyewitnesses, journalist Alexis Ndayisenga had just taken a seat in a public transport vehicle when a GMIR police officer ordered the passengers to get out of the vehicle. The journalist asked his permission to stay on board, citing his fatigue. In response to his request, the police officer, identified as Police Lieutenant Blaise, violently struck him twice in the neck with a baton, before ordering his subordinates to take him to the SOGEMAC police station, where he was again violently beaten, particularly on the buttocks, while he was lying face down.

According to the same sources, Alexis Ndayisenga was released at around 10 p.m., thanks to the intervention of a police official.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls on the competent authorities to immediately open an independent, impartial and transparent investigation in order to identify the police officers involved in the acts violating the physical integrity and dignity of journalist Alexis Ndayisenga and to bring them to justice, in accordance with the law.

It also urges the authorities to take appropriate measures to put an end to violence and abusive treatment inflicted on citizens, particularly journalists, to ensure the protection of journalists, and to ensure that security forces act in strict compliance with human rights and the law.

¹ Bujumbura Central Market Management Company.

3. Cases of Abduction or Disappearance

- On Sunday, October 4, 2026, at around 8:30 a.m., Jean Bosco Kinyange (see his photo below), 50 years old, residing in the Buyenzi zone and originally from Ruzibazi Hill, in the former Mukike commune, Bujumbura province, was abducted by police officers in the city of Bujumbura, near the ex-OCIBU² and Kumugumya, before being driven to an unknown destination in a white Toyota Hilux double-cab van, with tinted windows.



According to the testimony of one of his ten children, who was exercising with him, a police officer suddenly grabbed Jean Bosco Kinyange by his trousers and pulled him towards their vehicle, in which were three other men in police uniforms. In the aftermath, the child tried to ask where they were taking his father, before receiving several slaps in response.

² Office of Industrial Cultures of Burundi.

Family members of Jean Bosco Kinyange, a trader and member of the CNL³ party, close to Agathon Rwasa, searched for him in the Judicial Police detention cells in Bujumbura, but in vain.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls on the police authorities to shed light on the fate of Jean Bosco Kinyange, to inform his family and the public without delay of the place where he is being held and the reasons for his arrest, and to guarantee his moral and physical integrity.

The organization also calls on the relevant authorities to order an immediate and impartial independent and impartial investigation into the circumstances of the abduction of Jean Bosco Kinyange, to identify the officers involved and to bring them to justice in accordance with the law. Finally, it urges the authorities to take concrete measures to put an end to abductions and secret detentions, which expose victims to the risk of enforced disappearance.

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.

³ National Congress for Freedom.