

SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI REPORT NO. 566 PUBLISHED ON 19 OCTOBER 2026

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 11 to 18 October 2026. It documents cases of human rights violations committed on Burundian territory.

During this period, two (2) people were murdered in Bujumbura and Gitega provinces, one (1) person was arbitrarily arrested and detained in Bujumbura province, and one (1) person was abducted by agents of the National Intelligence Service (SNR) in the same Bujumbura province.

These new cases are in addition to those documented in the previous report, which reported one (1) case of murder in Burunga province, one (1) rape of a schoolgirl in Bujumbura province, as well as one (1) abduction of a refugee from the Banyamulenge community by SNR agents in Buhumuza province.

1. Violation of the right to life

- On the night of Monday 12 to Tuesday 13 October 2026, Bruce Sebanza, a former senior official of the Burundi Development Board (ADB), died of the blows and injuries inflicted on him by agents of the security company "Ulinzi Kazi", within the premises of this institution, located in Bujumbura, near the Kamenge Military Hospital.

According to concordant sources, the agents of this company, in charge of the agency's night surveillance, apprehended Bruce Sebanza, before alerting the Director General of the ADB, Révérien Nizigiyimana, who went to the scene around 5 a.m.

According to these sources, the Director General ordered that Bruce Sebanza be subjected to violent assaults, in which he himself took part. Neighbors of the ADB offices claim to have heard cries of distress.

After the death of Bruce Sebanza, Révérien Nizigiyimana reportedly tried to deposit his remains in the mortuary of the Military Hospital, but this approach was unsuccessful.

Subsequently, the security guards involved and Révérien Nizigiyimana were summoned to the police station in the Gihosha Zone, where they were heard by a judicial police officer, before being allowed to return to their homes.

It should be recalled that there was a conflict between the Director General and Bruce Sebanza. In 2025, the latter was imprisoned for several months following a complaint filed by Révérien Nizigiyimana. He was then provisionally released, but was not reinstated in his position.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls on the competent authorities to open an independent, transparent and impartial investigation without delay in order to establish the exact circumstances of Bruce Sebanza's death, to determine the responsibilities of those involved and to bring them to justice in accordance with the law.

- On Thursday, October 15, 2026, in the morning, Felix Nsabimana, a 43-year-old former demobilized soldier and father of six children, died following a grenade explosion, located on the hill of Rweza, in the commune of Gishubi, province of Gitega.

According to the testimonies of neighbors, the grenade exploded inside the house of Félix Nsabimana, who succumbed to his injuries. The cause and exact circumstances of the incident are not yet established.

According to the same sources, after the tragedy, the police carried out a search at the victim's home where they discovered a second grenade in good condition as well as a pair of military boots.

Félix Nsabimana's body was buried the same day, without a prior investigation to determine the circumstances of the presence of the two grenades at his home.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls on the competent authorities to shed light on the exact circumstances of this death and to open an independent, credible and thorough investigation without delay in order to establish the facts and identify those responsible.

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

- Since Monday, October 12, 2026, at around 5 p.m., Amani Papy Ndikumana, known as Papy Jamaica and Director General of Papy Jamaica Video Productions, has been detained by the National Intelligence Service (SNR), after his arrest inside the National Assembly premises in Kigobe, in northern Bujumbura.

According to sources in Burundi's National Assembly, Gélase Daniel Ndabirabe, speaker of the National Assembly, personally ordered SNR agents to take him away and to subject him to a severe beating him for his disrespect towards the institutions. This reportedly occurred following a reconciliation meeting concerning a dispute between Amani Papy Ndikumana, bound by a contract for the maintenance of the institution's audiovisual equipment, and two technicians, Eraste Nduwayo and David Nzeyimana. The producer had just declared that he no longer wanted to work with the two technicians.

The reasons for his arrest remain unclear. Accusations of insulting the President of the National Assembly have also been raised, but they have not been verified. No official communication has made it possible to establish the facts of which he is accused or to justify his transfer and maintenance in the premises of the SNR.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls on the competent authorities to clarify the reasons for the detention of producer Amani Papy Ndikumana, specify where he is being held, and

ensure that he has access to the rights guaranteed to every person deprived of their liberty.

3. Cases of abduction or Disappearance

- Since Monday, October 12, 2026, Dancile Manirambona, a mother of six children and separated from her husband, has been missing. She was abducted by SNR agents and taken in their vehicle to an unknown destination, after spending her first night in the Mpanda police cell, where she had been detained the day before following her arrest by Imbonerakure¹, acting on the orders of Alexis Congera. The latter had just bought her a plot of land located on the hill of Murengeza, in the commune of Mpanda, Bujumbura province. He claimed the reimbursement of a deposit he had paid her, claiming to have discovered that she was not the owner of the land.

According to family members, her mother, Germaine Banderembako, searched for her daughter in all the cells in the city of Bujumbura, except for the SNR cells where she was afraid to go.

Since then, Alexis Congera, who presents himself as a soldier, has threatened Germaine Banderembako and her two children living with her, via Imbonerakure, whom he sends to demand the repayment of his money, in exchange for revealing the place where Dancile Manirambona is being detained.

SOS-Torture Burundi calls on the competent authorities to reveal the whereabouts of Dancile Manirambona, to guarantee her physical integrity and to put an end to the threats made against her family.

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.

It also calls on the same authorities to prevent all forms of arbitrary and incommunicado detention, and to ensure that those responsible for this arrest are identified and prosecuted in accordance with the law.

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.