SOS-TORTURE Burundi REPORT NO. 567 PUBLISHED ON OCTOBER 26, 2026

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

During this period, one (1) child was killed by the explosion of a munition in the province of Bujumbura and another was injured. Two (2) officers of the Burundi National Police have been arbitrarily arrested and are being held in the cell of the National Intelligence Service (SNR) in the same province of Bujumbura.

These new cases are in addition to those documented in the previous report, which reported two (2) cases of assassination in the provinces of Bujumbura and Gitega, one (1) arbitrary arrest in the province of Bujumbura, as well as one (1) abduction by SNR agents in the same province of Bujumbura.

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1. Violation of the right to life

- On Saturday, October 24, 2026, during the day, a 13-year-old boy from a Congolese refugee family was killed by the explosion of an abandoned ammunition while he was roasting maize at the Cishemere transit center, in the commune of Cibitoke, Bujumbura province. Another child from the same community was injured and taken to the local health center for treatment.

  According to eyewitnesses, the children were gathered around a fire to roast corn when a bullet that was in the place where they had started the fire exploded in the heat.

  The Cishemere transit centre is near a military firing range used by Burundian soldiers and Imbonerakure, members of the youth league affiliated with the ruling party, the National Council for the Defence of Democracy-Forces for the Defence of Democracy (CNDD-FDD).

SOS-Torture Burundi calls on the competent authorities to urgently take appropriate measures to protect asylum seekers and remove weapons from the civilian population.

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

- Since Saturday, October 17, 2026, a series of arbitrary arrests has been carried out by the National Intelligence Service (SNR). The reasons for these arrests have not been officially communicated, but concordant sources mention investigations that would be linked to corruption within some public services, in particular the General Commission of Migration (CGM) and the Special Police of Traffic and Road Safety (PSR).

Thus, the Deputy Commissioner General of the CGM, Brigadier General of Police Romuald Ndababishije (see his photo below), was arrested in the city of Bujumbura on Saturday, October 17, 2026, and then taken to the SNR cell.

It should be recalled that Burundi's migration services are faced with recurrent problems, particularly in the issuance of passports, where the waiting time for obtaining this travel document remains particularly long and can reach a year.

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Nearly a week later, the commander of the PSR, Police Colonel Etienne Citegetse (see his photo below), was arrested in Bujumbura, in front of the headquarters of the ECOBANK bank, on Friday, October 23, 2026 by the police. He was taken to the SNR cell with some of his collaborators.



All arrested police officers are detained at the SNR headquarters in Bujumbura. This service is known for violating the rights of persons deprived of their liberty, who are reportedly not guaranteed by any judicial guarantee. Detainees in SNR cells do not have the assistance of a lawyer and do not have right to family visits.

SOS-Torture Burundi recalls that the police officers involved enjoy privileges of jurisdiction and should, in accordance with their status, be subject to the jurisdiction of the General Prosecutor's Office at the Supreme Court and the General Prosecutor's Office at the Court of Appeal, respectively.

Consequently, SOS-Torture Burundi calls on the National Intelligence Service (SNR) to scrupulously respect the provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure, to guarantee the fundamental rights of detainees, including the right to the assistance of a lawyer and family visits, and to ensure that any proceedings initiated comply with the applicable rules of jurisdiction.

The organization also urges the competent authorities to ensure that anyone deprived of their liberty is brought before the competent judicial authority within the legal deadlines and receives a fair trial.

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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.

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