SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI REPORT NO. 571 PUBLISHED ON NOVEMBER 23, 2026

This SOS-Torture Burundi report covers the period from 15 to 22 November 2026. It documents cases of human rights violations committed on Burundian territory.

During this period, two (2) people were killed in the provinces of Bujumbura and Gitega, and one (1) person was seriously injured by gunfire in the province of Bujumbura.

These new cases add to those documented in the previous report, which reported two (2) cases of murder in the provinces of Butanyerera and Gitega and one (1) person seriously injured in Bujumbura province.

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1. Violation of the Right to Life

- On the morning of Tuesday, November 17, 2026, the lifeless body of Nona Mpfayoguhora, an 85-year-old woman, was discovered inside her house located on Bugumbasha hill, in the commune and province of Gitega.

  According to eyewitnesses, Nona Mpfayokurera was murdered with a machete on the night of Monday, November 16. The victim had injuries to the head, and a machete was found near her body.

  According to the same sources, two members of the deceased's family, Séverin Ndayahoze, her son, and David Niyonkuru, her grandson, were arrested and taken into custody at the police cell in Makebuko for investigation. The exact circumstances of Nona Mpfayoguhora's death remain to be determined. Both men deny involvement in this crime.

  SOS-Torture Burundi calls on the competent authorities to promptly conduct an independent, impartial, and thorough investigation to shed full light on the

circumstances of the murder, establish responsibilities, and respect the fundamental rights of detainees, including the right to the presumption of innocence, the right to legal assistance, the right to dignified treatment and access to family members, and respect for legal guarantees throughout the proceedings.

- On Friday, November 20, 2026, around 4 p.m., a man identified as Roméo Bucumi died from injuries inflicted on him by a group from Imbonerakure[1], in the presence of agents of the Burundi National Police (PNB), who remained passive, on Gakomera sub-hill, Rugazi hill, in the commune of Mpanda, Bujumbura province.

  According to eyewitnesses, Roméo Bucumi, father of four children, was beaten to death with sticks by Imbonerakure from the Gakomera and Tebero sub-hills. They were led by their respective leaders, including leader Tebero, identified as Jean Claude Mpawenimana alias Mayikoro.

  The attackers accused him of witchcraft, following the death of a child that occurred earlier that day in a prayer room, after his mother had died a few days previously.

  According to the same sources, the head of Gakomera hill alerted the local police, which quickly intervened. Unfortunately, PNB agents rushed to the scene failed to save the life of Roméo Bucumi, who died immediately from his injuries. However, a man identified as Célestin Manirakiza was wounded in the thigh by a bullet fired during the aerial warning shots. He was then evacuated to a local health center.

  Thereafter, following Roméo Bucumi's death, the same Imbonerakure stormed his home, then set fire to his house and ransacked all his belongings. Meanwhile, his wife and children sought refuge in the neighborhood to escape persecution.

  SOS-Torture Burundi calls on the competent authorities to immediately open an independent, impartial, and thorough investigation to establish the exact

[1] *Members of the youth league affiliated with the ruling party, the CNDD-FDD (National Council for the Defense of Democracy-Forces for the Defense of Democracy).*

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circumstances of these crimes, to identify and bring to justice all alleged perpetrators and their potential accomplices, including PNB agents, for their passivity and failure to provide assistance to a person in danger.

The organization urges the same authorities to ensure the protection of the victim's family, to provide appropriate assistance, and to take the necessary measures to prevent such acts of violence and impunity.

SOS-Torture/Burundi was initiated with the aim of informing national and international opinion about serious ongoing human rights violations in Burundi through monitoring reports notably on torture, arbitrary arrests, enforced disappearances, sexual violence, and summary executions.

This initiative to inform about the country's realities followed the massacre of about a hundred people killed during December 11 and December 12, 2015, by police and military personnel under the pretext of pursuing rebels who had just attacked military camps on the outskirts of the capital

The affected areas are said to be protesters of President Nkurunziza's third term, namely Musaga, Mutakura, Cibitoke, Nyakabiga, Jabe, the last two being located in the center of Bujumbura City Hall.