

PUBLIC

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Further information on UA 105/01 (AFR 16/030/2001, 24 April 2001) - Fear of torture / Incommunicado detention

BURUNDI **Lieutenant Pasteur NTAKARUTIMANA**
Raphaël MANIRAKIZA, PARENA member
Ildéphonse NDAGIJIMANA, PARENA member, trade union representative
Over 130 soldiers
28 members of PARENA, names not known

Over 130 soldiers are now reported to have been arrested following the coup attempt on 18 April 2001. Most of them are either elite paratroopers or come from the Gakumbu military camp, where Lieutenant Ntakarutimana, who led the attempted coup, was based. Thirty civilians are also reportedly now detained.

Twenty-eight members of the opposition *Parti pour le redressement national* (PARENA), National Recovery Party, were arrested on 26 April when they went to visit Raphaël Manirakiza and Ildéphonse Ndagijimana at the *Brigade spéciale de recherche* (BSR), a gendarmerie special investigation unit. The delegation was apparently allowed into the BSR compound, then arrested, split into two groups and taken to the Camp Ngagara and SOCARTI military camps in Bujumbura.

Raphael Manirakiza and Ildéphonse Ndagijimana, both active members of PARENA, have apparently been accused of helping to prepare the coup. Lieutenant Pasteur Ntakarutimana is also being held incommunicado at a gendarmerie special investigation unit.

All the detainees are being held incommunicado, and have received no legal assistance, although they are being questioned.

Fifty-two soldiers, including seven sergeants, are reportedly being held at the Gakumbu military camp near the capital, Bujumbura. They are believed to be the soldiers who went with Lieutenant Ntakarutimana to the radio station.

Seventy-two paratroopers with the *Battalion Para* are reportedly held at the *Société de Transports du Burundi* (STB), Burundi Transport Company, a depot used as a training venue for women doing military service. The *Battalion Para* is responsible for guarding the state radio and television station, which was taken over by Lieutenant Ntakarutimana and his soldiers during the coup attempt.

Nine student officers from the *Institut Supérieur des Cadres Militaires* (ISCAM), Higher Institute of Military Officers, have reportedly also been arrested, although it is not known where they are held. During the attempted coup, Lieutenant Ntakarutimana visited the ISCAM to call for support.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in French or in your own language (please check whether postal services to Burundi are functioning):

- urging the authorities to guarantee the safety and physical well-being of the soldiers and civilians arrested following the apparent attempted coup of 18 April;
- calling on the government to confirm and make public their whereabouts, and to allow them immediate access to their families, lawyers and appropriate medical care, as well as to humanitarian and human rights organizations;
- calling on the Commission of Inquiry to order the immediate release of any detainee against whom there no substantiating evidence or who cannot be promptly charged with a recognizably criminal offence.

APPEALS TO (Please note, it can be difficult to get through on the numbers given below, and you may be told by the operator that they are temporarily out of order. Please be patient and keep trying):

Head of State

Son Excellence

Major Pierre BUYOYA

Président de la République

Présidence de la République

BP 1870 Bujumbura, Burundi

Telegrams: President, Bujumbura, Burundi

Faxes: + 257 22 74 90

Salutation: Monsieur le Président de la République / Dear President

Minister of National Defence

Colonel Cyrille NDAYIRUKIYE

Ministre de la Défense Nationale

Ministère de la Défense Nationale

BUJUMBURA, Burundi

Telegrams: Ministre Defense, Bujumbura, Burundi

Faxes: + 257 22 56 86

Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Dear Minister

Minister for Internal Affairs and Public Security

Colonel Ascension TWAGIRAMUNGU

Ministre de l'Intérieur et de la Sécurité Publique

Ministère de l'Intérieur

BUJUMBURA, Burundi

Telegrams: Ministre interieur, Bujumbura, Burundi

Fax: + 257 22 19 82

Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Dear Minister

State Public Prosecutor

Monsieur Gérard NGENDABANKA

Procureur Général de la République

Bujumbura

Burundi

Telegrams: Procureur general, Bujumbura, Burundi

Fax: + 257 24 15 03

Salutation: Monsieur le Procureur général de la République / Dear State Public Prosecutor

President of the Commission of Inquiry

Monsieur Pierre Ndayisenga

Procureur général près la Cour d'Appel

Bujumbura

Burundi

Telegrams: Procureur général cour d'appel, Bujumbura, Burundi

Fax: c/o Procureur général de la République, + 257 24 15 03

Salutation: Monsieur le Procureur général près la Cour d'Appel / Dear Public Prosecutor

COPIES TO:

Minister for Human Rights, Institutional Reform and Relations with the National Assembly

Eugène NINDORERA, Ministre des droits de la Personne humaine, des réformes institutionnelles, et des relations avec l'Assemblée nationale, Ministère des droits de la Personne humaine, des réformes institutionnelles, et des relations avec l'Assemblée nationale, Bujumbura, Burundi

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and to diplomatic representatives of Burundi accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 8 June 2001.