

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AFR 47/03/94
Distr: UA/SC

UA 140/94 Extrajudicial executions / Fear of further killings

8 April 1994

RWANDA Faustin Rucogoza, Minister of Information;
 Landoald Ndasingwa, Minister of Employment and Social Affairs;
 Frédéric Nzamurambano, Minister of Agriculture.
 Charles Shamukiga, human rights activist

Amid persistent reports of extrajudicial executions being carried out by members of the Presidential Guard and other divisions of the Rwandan security forces, Amnesty International fears that people who have been detained, including the four named above, are also in danger of extrajudicial execution.

Since President Habyirmana was killed when his plane was shot down on 6 April (see below), a number of opposition figures, human rights activists and civilians have reportedly been detained in Kigali, the capital. The three government ministers named above, who represent opposition parties, and their families, as well as three United Nations peacekeeping officials are believed to have been taken prisoner by members of the Presidential Guard. Human rights activists including Charles Shamukiga of the *Association des volontaires de la paix (AVP)*, Association of Peace Volunteers, are also believed to have been detained. Others are thought to be in hiding. Reports from Kigali suggest that the Presidential Guard is targeting members of the community known or thought to have opposed President Habyirmana. The Presidential Guard is believed to be carrying out house-to-house searches, and in some cases to have extrajudicially executed the occupants. There are other reports of people being arrested, and taken away to unknown destinations.

The Presidential Guard are known to have extrajudicially executed the Prime Minister, Agathe Uwilingimana, and, in a separate incident, to have detained, disarmed and then shot 11 Belgian members of the UN peacekeeping force who had gone to the airport to investigate the scene of the crash. Two other UN officials are reported to be missing. Nineteen Roman Catholic nuns and priests are also reported to have been extrajudicially executed by members of the Presidential Guard in Kigali. Three European Jesuits who were at the Jesuit Centre of Spirituality where the killings took place were not harmed. Several dozen Rwandans, working for international aid agencies in Kigali, are also reported to have been extrajudicially executed by members of the Presidential Guard. They are believed to have been taken out and shot in front of expatriate staff.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Rwandan presidential plane was shot down as it arrived in Rwanda on 6 April, killing Presidents Juvénal Habyarimana of Rwanda and Cyprien Ntaryamira of Burundi as well as several other officials of both countries. No one has admitted responsibility for the incident.

Rwanda has seen many political killings in recent years. Amnesty International appealed publicly to Rwanda's authorities in February 1994 to take urgent measures to end a recent upsurge in killings after at least 37 people were killed during political violence on 22 and 23 February. In a peace accord signed in August 1993 the government and the *Front patriotique rwandais (FPR)*, Rwandese Patriotic Front, agreed to end hostilities which began in October 1990 and

to form a broad-based transitional government. Some sources said that the February violence was orchestrated to prevent the installation of a transitional coalition government, which had been repeatedly postponed and has still not been established.

Since war broke out in Rwanda in 1990 between Hutu-dominated government forces and rebels of the Tutsi-dominated *FPR*, more than 2,300 people, mostly of the Tutsi ethnic group, have reportedly been killed by security forces and Hutu gangs. The *FPR* is reported to have converged on Kigali since the President was killed, threatening to invade the city. There have already been reports of fighting between government troops and *FPR* troops in the city.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters either in French or in your own language:

- expressing concern at the reported arrests of a number of opposition figures, human rights activists and civilians, including those named above; - seeking assurances that detainees are not being subjected to torture or any other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment;
- asking that their place of detention and the reasons for their detention be made public, and that they be released immediately if they are not to be charged with a recognisably criminal offence ;
- expressing deep concern at the extrajudicial executions which have followed the death of the Presidents of Burundi and Rwanda, which have included unarmed civilians, and appealing to all parties to do all in their power to halt the fighting to prevent further killings and other human rights violations;
- condemning the extrajudicial execution of Prime Minister Agathe Uwilingimana and of the 11 UN peacekeeping officials and others;
- urging the authorities to set up an independent and impartial investigation to establish the exact causes of these killings with a view to identifying and bringing the perpetrators to justice.

APPEALS TO

1) Commandant de la Garde présidentielle

La Présidence

BP 15, Kigali, République rwandaise

Faxes: + 250 72902 / + 250 74583

Telexes: 22502

Telegrams: Commandant de la Garde présidentielle, Kigali, Rwanda

Salutation: Monsieur le Commandant / Dear Commander

2) BIZIMANA Augustin

Ministre à la Présidence pour la Défense et la Sécurité

BP 15, Kigali, République rwandaise

Faxes: + 250 74583 Telex: 22517

Telegrams: Ministre Defense et Securite, Kigali, Rwanda

Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Dear Minister

3) Monsieur le Lieutenant-Colonel NDINDILYIMANA Augustin

Chef d'Etat-major de la Gendarmerie Nationale

Ministère de la Défense nationale

BP 85, Kigali, République rwandaise

Faxes: + 250 74583

Telexes: 22517

Telegrams: Lieutenant-Colonel Ndindiliyimana, Kigali, Rwanda

Salutation: Monsieur le Lieutenant-Colonel / Dear Lieutenant-Colonel

4) Chef d'Etat-major des Forces armées rwandaises
Ministère de la Défense nationale
BP 85, Kigali, République rwandaise

Faxes: + 250 74583

Telexes: 22517

Telegrams: Chef d'Etat-major, Ministere Defense, Kigali, Rwanda

Salutation: Monsieur le Chef d'Etat-major / Dear Chief of Staff

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR), PO Box 749, Kigali, Rwanda

Abbé André SIBOMANA, Rédacteur-en-Chef, Journal Kinyamateka, BP 761, KIGALI, Rwanda

Minister of Justice, Madame NTAMABYALIRO Agnès, BP 2119, KIGALI, Rwanda

and to diplomatic representatives of Rwanda accredited to your country

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 20 May 1994.