

PUBLIC

AI Index: AFR 47/009/2003

16 July 2003

Further information on UA 157/03 (AFR 47/006/2003, 30 May 2003) Fear for safety/possible prisoner of conscience/detention without charge

RWANDA

Augustin Butorano, (also known as Nkuba) (m), Vice-President of *Itara* young construction workers group

Augustin Butorano, who was detained by police on 26 May, was released unconditionally around 9 June. He had been held without charge at Muhima police station in the capital, Kigali.

Augustin Butorano was a member of *Itara*, a group of young construction workers. He was arrested after *Itara* had reportedly received construction contracts from the *Mouvement démocratique républicain* (MDR), Democratic Republican Movement, a political party that has since been banned. According to local sources, Augustin Butorano was arrested mainly because business competition from *Itara* threatened the financial interests of construction companies affiliated to the ruling Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF). The accusation that Augustin Butorano had "threatened the smooth administration of the referendum" on a new constitution was reportedly used as cover to justify the detention of Augustin Butorano and to discredit *Itara*.

Amnesty International has not been able to confirm reports that other members of *Itara* were detained for similar reasons.

No further action is required from the UA network. Many thanks to all those who sent appeals.