

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Legal concern

2 April 1992

Rwanda

Fidèle Kanyabugoyi

director at the Ministry of Public Works and member of a human rights group known as KANYARWANDA (Association pour la promotion de l'Union pour la Justice sociale).

The person named above was reportedly arrested in Kigali on 29 March 1992 by members of the Security police known as the Service central de renseignements (SCR), Central Intelligence Service. Two members of the SCR searched his home and office and seized documents before arresting him. Reports from Kigali indicate that he was arrested because of his involvement in investigating recent human rights violations and criticizing government and security officials allegedly responsible for the violations. Fidèle Kanyabugoyi comes from the Bagogwe, a clan of the minority Tutsi ethnic group, hundreds of whose members were killed in early 1991. He was interrogated by the SCR on 30 March and transferred to Kigali Central Prison. Neither his family nor his lawyer has been informed of the charges against him nor been allowed to visit him.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

An estimated one thousand Bagogwe in the northwestern regions of Gisenyi and Ruhengeri were killed by members of the Security forces and Hutu gangs between mid-January and mid-February 1991 after the armed rebel group known as the Front patriotique rwandais (FPR), Rwandese Patriotic Front, occupied the town of Ruhengeri. Fidèle Kanyabugoyi is reported to have been involved in gathering information about the killings and other human rights violations which occurred in early 1991.

At least 60 Tutsi are reported to have been killed and many others injured by Hutu gangs in the Kanzenze district south of Kigali at the beginning of March 1992. Other sources claim that several hundred Tutsi were killed. The gangs are reported to have burned houses and destroyed other property belonging to the Tutsi. An Italian missionary helping Tutsi victims at Nyamata Roman Catholic church parish in the area was shot dead by a member of the Rwandese security forces on 9 March 1992. These raids followed a radio broadcast claiming that the FPR was planning to use the Parti Libéral, Liberal Party, which is reported to have significant support among the Tutsi in Kanzenze, to assassinate prominent Hutu politicians. The radio broadcast is reported to have hinted that the Hutu should defend themselves against the enemy, construed by Hutu gangs to be Tutsi. In late March 1992 Fidèle Kanyabugoyi signed a statement on behalf of KANYARWANDA protesting against the killings of Tutsi in Kanzenze district.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail

letters, in FRENCH, if possible:

- expressing concern at reports that Fidèle Kanyabugoyi is being held incommunicado without charge or trial, apparently because he was involved in investigating and denouncing human rights violations in Rwanda;

- seeking assurances that his fundamental human rights are being respected in detention, in particular that his physical safety is guaranteed and that he is permitted visits from his family and a lawyer of his choice;

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- expressing concern that he is a prisoner of conscience, arrested because of his concern on behalf of human rights victims in his country and urging the authorities to release him immediately and unconditionally.

APPEALS TO

1) Prime Minister:

Monsieur Sylvestre NZANZIMANA
Présidence de la République
BP 15 Kigali, République rwandaise
Ministère de la Justice
BP 160, Kigali, République rwandaise

**Monsieur le Premier Ministre /
Dear Prime Minister**

Telegrams: Premier Ministre, Kigali, Rwanda

Telexes: 22502

Faxes: + 250 74583

2) Minister of Justice:

Mathieu Mgirumpatse
Ministre de la Justice
Ministère de la Justice
BP 160, Kigali, République rwandaise

**Monsieur le Ministre /
Dear Minister**

Telegrams: Ministre Justice, Kigali, Rwanda

Telexes: 22517

Faxes: + 250 72902 or + 250 72904

3) Minister of Defence and Security:

Le Colonel Augustin NDINDILYIMAN
Ministre de la Défense et la Sécurité
BP 15, Kigali, République rwandaise

**Monsieur le Ministre /
Dear Minister**

Telegrams: Ministre Defense et Securite, Kigali, Rwanda

Telexes: 22517

Faxes: + 250 74583

COPIES TO AT LEAST TWO OF THE FOLLOWING:

Minister of Foreign Affairs:

Monsieur le Docteur Casimir BIZIMUNGU
Ministre des Affaires étrangères
et de la coopération
Ministère des Affaires étrangères
BP 179, Kigali, République Rwandaise

Faxes: +250 72902 or +250 72904

Secretary General of the National Security Service:

Monsieur Donat HAKIZIMANA

Secrétaire général

Service central de renseignements (SCR)

BP 125, Kigali, République rwandaise

and the following newspapers:

- M. le Rédacteur-en-Chef, Kinyamateka, BP 761, Kigali, République rwandaise
- M. le Rédacteur-en-Chef, La Relève, Office rwandaise d'information, BP 83, Kigali, République rwandaise
- M. le Rédacteur-en-Chef, Isibo, Bureau central, BP 2258, Kigali, République rwandaise
- M. le Rédacteur-en-Chef, Le Tribun du Peuple, BP 2314, Kigali, République rwandaise

and to diplomatic representatives of Rwanda in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat or your section office, if sending appeals after 14 May 1992.