

PUBLIC

AI Index: AFR 16/24/98

18 September 1998

**Further information on UA 233/98 (AFR 16/21/98, 2 September 1998) - Fear for safety / Fear of ill-treatment**

**BURUNDI Mr Pascal Birari, local administrative advisor (*conseiller communal*)  
in Mutimbuzi commune, Rural Bujumbura province  
and around 15 others, names unknown**

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Fears continue for the safety of Pascal Birari, now known to be held in Gatumba police station (*brigade*), in Rural Bujumbura province, and for 15 others for whom no further news has been received.

Pascal Birari is reportedly in urgent need of medical attention as a result of being severely beaten in detention. Amnesty International is concerned that he has so far been denied this medical treatment and that he is at risk of further ill-treatment.

Pascal Birari was arrested on 30 August 1998 by soldiers who reportedly accused him of providing food and other support to armed opposition groups. They claimed that he had been denounced by 15 others arrested five days earlier in Maramvya zone, Rural Bujumbura.

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please check with your post office whether postal services from your country are functioning to Burundi. Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes - and, if you are able, express/airmail letters - in French or in your own language:**

- expressing deep concern that Pascal Birari has been severely beaten by members of the security forces while in detention at Gatumba *brigade*;
- urging that Pascal Birari be given urgent medical attention and that immediate steps be taken to protect him from further ill-treatment;
- calling for the whereabouts of the 15 others, reportedly detained at Kiyange military position, to be made public, and seeking assurances that they will not be ill-treated in detention;
- asking that an independent investigation be carried out into the reported ill-treatment of Pascal Birari and that, if confirmed, any official found to have carried out or condoned the ill-treatment be removed from their post and brought to justice;
- reminding the government of Burundi of its commitment to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in particular Article 5: "No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment".

**APPEALS TO (please note that fax tones are difficult to obtain at times):**

President

Major Pierre BUYOYA  
Président de la République  
Présidence de la République  
Bujumbura  
Burundi

**Telegrams: Major Buyoya, Bujumbura, Burundi**

**Telexes: 5036PRESIBU**

**Faxes: + 257 22 74 90**

**Salutation: Monsieur le Président / Dear President**

Minister of Justice

Monsieur Terence SINUNGURUZA  
Ministre de la Justice et Garde des scéaux  
Ministère de la Justice  
Bujumbura  
Burundi

**Telegrams: Ministre Justice, Bujumbura, Burundi**

**Faxes: + 257 22 21 48**

**Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Dear Minister**

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

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

**Faxes: + 257 21 38 47**

Governor of Rural Bujumbura

Dr Stany NTAHOBARI  
Isale, Bujumbura Rural  
Burundi

**Telegrams: Governor of Rural Bujumbura, Bujumbura Rural, Burundi**

**Salutation: Monsieur le Gouverneur / Dear Gouvernor**

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 30 October 1998

**"Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of  
person"**

Article 3 , Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Visit the Amnesty International UDHR campaign website on <http://www.amnesty.excite.com>