

PUBLIC

AI Index: AFR 16/30/98

16 October 1998

Further information on UA 233/98 (AFR 16/21/98, 2 September 1998) and follow-up (AFR 16/24/98, 18 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

Amnesty International remains concerned for the safety of Pascal Birari. He has reportedly been transferred from Gatumba police station (*brigade*) to Mpimba Central Prison, in Bujumbura, where he remains at risk of ill-treatment. He is not known to have been charged with a criminal offence.

Pascal Birari has greater access to medical attention and visits by human rights and humanitarian organisations in Mpimba Central Prison than at Gatumba *brigade*. However, he may not have received the medical treatment that he urgently needs as a result of being severely beaten in detention at Gatumba *brigade*.

The conditions of Mpimba Central Prison are harsh, and aggravated by severe over-crowding. With a capacity of 800, the prison holds over 2,500 detainees.

Concerns remain for the safety of 15 others reportedly detained at Kiyange military position, about whom no further news has been obtained.

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 remains in detention at Mpimba Central Prison without charge or trial, and that he was severely beaten by members of the security forces while in detention at Gatumba *brigade* in September;
- 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 are not being 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 3: "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person".

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 21 86 10 (please note this is a new fax number)

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

COPIES TO:

Procurator General: Maître Jean Bosco BUTASI, Procureur Général, Bujumbura,
Burundi

Fax: + 257 21 86 10

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 27 November

"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>