

PUBLIC

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Fear of safety/ "Disappearance"

3 July 1998

**RWANDA**Onesphore BYAMPILIYE, businessman

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There are fears for the safety of Onesphore Byampiliye, whose current whereabouts remain unknown. On 29 June 1998 he was reportedly led away from his house in Gisenyi *préfecture*, northwestern Rwanda, by soldiers of the Rwandese Patriotic Army (RPA)

Amnesty International has received reports that on the morning of 29 June, soldiers came to Onesphore Byampiliye's house, in Rugerero *secteur*, Rubavu *commune*, Gisenyi *préfecture*. The soldiers reportedly killed his wife, Immaculée Twagiramariya. Onesphore Byampiliye was allegedly led away by the soldiers and has not been seen since.

Onesphore Byampiliye had left his home area in April 1998 and had gone to the capital, Kigali. Prior to his departure, he had been threatened and beaten by RPA soldiers. He returned to his home recently.

Amnesty International is not aware of any particular reason why Onesphore Byampiliye and his family have been targeted.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Between December 1997 and May 1998, hundreds and possibly thousands of people "disappeared" in Rwanda. In many cases, they are presumed dead. Only in a minority of cases are the bodies ever found by the families. In some cases, the "disappeared" are believed to be alive, held in unofficial or inaccessible detention centres, such as military camps

The northwestern part of Rwanda is devastated by armed conflict. Thousands of unarmed civilians have been killed by members of the security forces and by armed opposition groups believed to include members of the former Rwandese army who participated in the genocide. In January 1998, RPA soldiers killed more than 300 unarmed civilians in Rubavu *commune*.

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

- expressing concern for Onesphore Byampiliye's safety following reports that he was led away from his house by soldiers on 29 June 1998;
- expressing concern about reports that his wife, Immaculée Twagiramariya, was killed by RPA soldiers the same day and calling upon the authorities to immediately start an investigation into her death;
- calling upon the authorities to establish Onesphore Byampiliye's current whereabouts and to make them public;
- asking for assurances that his safety and physical well-being be guaranteed;
- calling upon the authorities to bring to justice, in accordance with international standards of fairness, officials who are found to have carried out or condoned human rights violations against Onesphore Byampiliye.

#### **APPEALS TO:**

Sheikh Abdul Karim HARELIMANA  
Ministre de l'Intérieur, du Développement communal  
et de la Réintégration sociale  
BP 446, Kigali, Rwanda

**Telegrams: Minister Interior, Kigali, Rwanda**

**Fax: +250 83170**

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

Dr Faustin Ntezilyayo  
Ministre de la Justice  
Ministère de la Justice  
BP 160, Kigali, Rwanda

**Telegrams: Ministre Ntezilyayo, Kigali, Rwanda**  
**Fax: + 250 86509**

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

Vice-President and Minister of Defence  
General Major Paul KAGAME  
Vice-Président de la République  
et Ministre de la Défense  
Ministère de la Défense  
BP 23 KIGALI

République rwandaise  
**Fax: + 250 72431/76969**

**Saluation: Monsieur le Vice-Président**

**COPIES TO:**

Prefect of Gisenyi  
Capitaine Jean-Baptiste MUHIRWA  
Préfet de Gisenyi  
Préfecture de Gisenyi  
BP 173 GISENYI  
République rwandaise  
Tel/fax: 250 61312

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 14 August 1998.