

RWANDA

APPEAL CASES

"No one is talking about it anymore."

Background

In April 1994, a tiny country in Central Africa which was virtually unknown suddenly became notorious around the world for the brutal massacres which claimed as many as one million lives in just three months. The international media focussed sharply on Rwanda, thrusting daily images of piles of bloody corpses at the international community.

Despite widespread acknowledgement that the killings taking place in Rwanda constituted genocide - defined as *'the intent to destroy in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial or religious group'*¹ - the world's governments betrayed the people of Rwanda by pulling out their representatives at a time when they were needed most. In July 1994, at the end of the war, those same governments returned their representatives to the Rwandese capital, Kigali, in an atmosphere of uncertainty and guilt, pledging to help the new government reconstruct the devastated country. "Justice" and "reconciliation" were the words on everyone's lips. They all said: "Never again!".

But the violence has not stopped. Unarmed civilians continued to be deliberately killed in 1995 and 1996, albeit not on a scale comparable to the massacres which took place during the genocide in 1994. But in 1997, the number of killings in Rwanda rose sharply again; at least 6 000 were reportedly killed between January and August.

The spectre of the genocide still hovers over Rwanda. Armed opposition groups believed to be allied to the former army (the *Forces armées rwandaises* - FAR) are now fighting the new national army, the Rwandese Patriotic Army (RPA). These opposition groups are massacring hundreds of unarmed civilians, including young children. But in 1997, even more killings have been carried out by members of the RPA, the very army which had overthrown the forces responsible for the genocide, often under the cover of sweeping counter-insurgency operations.

Whichever way they turn, the people living in the areas most affected by the renewed armed conflict are facing the threat of being murdered by either the army or the armed opposition, "disappeared", tortured or subjected to other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.

Despite the gravity of the situation in Rwanda in 1997, the world remains virtually silent. In the words of a witness in Rwanda: *"No one is talking about it anymore"*. Journalists are no longer there to record the images, either because they, or their editors, have lost interest in a country where violent death has become almost a banality, or because they are denied access to the areas

¹Article II, UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, 9 December 1948

where most of the killings are occurring. It has become increasingly difficult and dangerous for human rights workers to investigate reports of massacres and to publish the results of their investigations.

Despite the fact that many refugees from neighbouring countries have been killed or “disappeared” on return to Rwanda, refugees continue to be sent back to Rwanda from various countries, to face the prospect of death, “disappearance”, ill-treatment, arbitrary arrest and homelessness. Aid workers and public officials who dare to assist returning refugees are in turn putting their own lives in danger.

The cases in this document - and many others described in the Amnesty International report *Rwanda: Ending the Silence* (AFR 47/32/97), published on 25 September 1997 - illustrate the dramatic escalation of killings and “disappearances” in Rwanda since January 1997, following the return of hundreds of thousands of refugees from the former Zaire and Tanzania at the end of 1996. Some of these killings have been carried out by members of the Rwandese Patriotic Army (RPA); others by armed opposition groups believed to be allied to the former Rwandese army and *interahamwe* militia who played a leading role in the genocide in 1994; others by unidentified perpetrators. In terms of the number of victims in 1997, the majority of the killings are believed to have been carried out by members of the RPA. Yet government investigations in these massacres and other killings remain rare. The vast majority of those who kill do so with impunity.

Foreign governments know what is happening in Rwanda, yet few attempts have been made on the international level to stop the killings. This attitude of apparent indifference on the part of the international community is enabling the perpetrators to continue violating human rights with little fear of censure. Yet Amnesty International and other organizations, including the United Nations Human Rights Field Operation in Rwanda (UNHRFOR), have published detailed information about killings in 1995, 1996 and 1997. These warnings have not been heeded and the human rights situation continues to worsen.

The killings in Rwanda are not inevitable. The people of Rwanda have the right to live in peace and free from fear. The public worldwide must not allow the international community to turn its back on Rwanda again. The crisis in Rwanda is not over, the violence has not ended. But if the will is there, the killings can stop and the people of Rwanda can look forward to a normal life once again.

Action for the victims

These appeal cases provide a way for you to take action and make a contribution to Amnesty International’s campaigning work on Rwanda. There are six cases, each followed by a section on “what you can do”, including suggested points for appeals you can send to the Rwandese Government and other suggestions for action.

Please distribute these cases as widely as possible and encourage people you know - whether they are members of Amnesty International or not - to send appeals on behalf of these six cases, who represent just a few of the more than 6,000 who have been killed in recent months.

RWANDA: JOURNALISTS

killed for speaking out

“On est obligé d’écrire avec des mains qui

He was the editor of a newspaper, *Umuravumba*, which he had founded only three months earlier, and also worked as journalist on another newspaper, *Intego*. He was one of Rwanda’s few remaining independent journalists who had dared to speak out about human rights abuses that had occurred since the end of the genocide in 1994. On 30 July 1996, he was arrested following a random identity check. When soldiers found out that he worked for *Intego*, they beat him; he was detained at a *gendarmerie* post in Kigali until his release on 19 August 1996. He was never formally charged - the soldiers accused him of being an *interahamwe* (One of the militia groups responsible for many massacres during the 1994 genocide). This was apparently because of an article in *Intego* which had criticized the government’s counter-insurgency policy.

Appollos Hakizimana had reason to be afraid for his life; in the weeks before his death, he had received several death threats, but he continued his work until his sudden and brutal death.

tremblent” (“We have to write with trembling hands.”) A Rwandese journalist, 1996

Appollos Hakizimana, a 28-year-old journalist, was shot dead by gunmen on the evening of 27 April 1997 as he was walking home from a bar in Kigali’s Nyamirambo neighbourhood with his sister.

After the killing of Appollos Hakizimana, **Amiel Nkuriza**, director of *Intego* and editor of *Le Partisan*, also began fearing for his life. He too had been arrested, beaten and detained in August 1996 and had received several death threats - most recently after the killing of Appollos Hakizimana. On 13 May 1997, Amiel Nkuriza was arrested at the national printing press in Kigali as he went to collect the latest edition of *Le Partisan*. This and previous issues had been seized because they contained articles perceived as hostile to the government. Amiel Nkuriza was detained briefly at the *gendarmerie* post, before being transferred to Kimironko prison in Kigali. He

is reportedly facing charges of incitement to ethnic hatred. Amiel Nkuriza is not known to have been ill-treated in prison; however, prison conditions across Rwanda are often life-threatening because of serious overcrowding and absence of hygiene and medical facilities.

Intego was the successor of the newspaper *Le Messager*, whose former editor **Edouard Mutsinzi** was attacked with machetes and left for dead in a bar in Kigali in January 1995. This attack was apparently motivated by an article in *Le Messager* which compared human rights violations committed by the former and current governments. The perpetrators of the attack have never been identified or brought to justice. Edouard Mutsinzi survived with grave injuries. He now lives in exile.

These are not the only journalists who have been targeted for speaking out. Several journalists working for the Catholic journal *Kinyamateka* also have been threatened in connection with articles about human rights violations. **Manassé Mugabo**, a journalist who worked for the radio station of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda, “disappeared” without trace in August 1995. He is presumed dead.

Several other Rwandese journalists who have been repeatedly threatened have decided to abandon their profession, or ceased to report on human rights violations by the authorities for fear of losing their lives.

• **What you can do:**

• **Write to the Rwandese Minister of Information and Minister of Justice:**

- Calling for a full and public inquiry into the killing of Appollos Hakizimana and for his killers to be brought to justice;
- Asking for information on the charges against Amiel Nkuriza and the progress of any judicial action against him;
- Expressing concern about the threats to freedom of expression in Rwanda and pointing out that the non-violent expression of opinions is a right guaranteed by international human rights treaties to which Rwanda is a party;
 - Seeking assurances that journalists and others who seek to denounce human rights abuses will be protected from their own human rights being violated; appealing for adequate protection to be provided to individuals who have been threatened.

Addresses:

Minister of Information: M. Jean-Népomuscène NAYINZIRA, Ministre de l'Information, Ministère de l'Information, BP 1532 Kigali, Rwanda (Fax: 250-84604 / 85335)

Minister of Justice: Dr Faustin NTEZILYAYO, Ministre de la Justice, Ministère de la Justice, BP 160 Kigali, Rwanda (Fax: 250-86509)

• **Write to your own government and/or to your local parliamentarian.**

Ask them to use their influence to help stop human rights violations in Rwanda

- by putting direct diplomatic pressure on the Rwandese authorities to stop political killings and other violations of the right to freedom of expression;
- by making public statements denouncing these human rights violations;
- by raising these issues through international organizations such as the United Nations, the European Union or the Organization for African Unity;
- by offering to provide human and material resources that may be required to protect potential victims of human rights violations.

• **Contact journalists or journalists' associations in your country.**

Ask them to send appeals to the Rwandese Minister of Information, preferably in their professional capacity, making the points listed above.

- **Call for meetings with new journalists and editors** to brief them about the continuing human rights situation being neglected by the world's media.

RWANDA: LEGAL PROFESSIONALS

“Disappeared” in pursuit of justice

Innocent Murengezi, a Rwandese lawyer, never returned home from court in the capital Kigali on the evening of 30 January 1997. His family have been waiting for news of him ever since. Despite initial rumours that he had been arrested, he has not been located in any detention centre in Rwanda. The criminal investigation authorities have indicated that they are no longer investigating the case. Innocent Murengezi is presumed dead; yet his body has never been found.

Innocent Murengezi had been threatened several times in relation to his work as a defence lawyer representing individuals accused of participation in the genocide in Rwanda in 1994. Just a few weeks before his “disappearance”, he was warned that a group of people were intending to denounce him for participation in the genocide so that he would be arrested.

In January 1997, Innocent Murengezi had been representing both the civil parties and defendants in some of the first trials of those accused of participation in the genocide. He was one of the few Rwandese lawyers prepared to act for the defence in these trials which are politically highly sensitive. The majority of defence lawyers in these trials have been foreigners. Many defendants have not even had access to a lawyer.

A colleague of Innocent Murengezi, **André Bimenyimana**, was arrested and taken to Kigali central prison on 23 September 1997. He has been accused of participating in the genocide in Rwanda in 1994. Like Innocent Murengezi, he had been working as a defence lawyer, representing people accused of Other judicial officials have been arrested. **Silas Munyagishali**, assistant prosecutor in Kigali, was arrested in February 1996, on accusations of participation in the genocide. One of the reasons for his arrest may have been that he had refused to authorize the detention of individuals against whom there was no evidence and had complained about the

participation in the genocide. His family, his colleagues and representatives of the non-governmental organization *Avocats sans frontières* (Lawyers without borders) have been allowed to visit him in prison. There are no reports that he has been ill-treated.

The Rwandese legal system was devastated by the war and genocide of 1994. Courts, prosecution offices and basic office equipment were destroyed. Many judicial officials were killed or fled the country. Qualified or experienced legal professionals were already scarce even before the genocide. Rebuilding the justice system has been a priority for the Rwandese Government. However, the task of bringing justice to the people of Rwanda presents an enormous challenge in the face of multiple political, emotional and logistical obstacles. After the genocide in which as many as one million people were killed, desire for revenge is high and calls to respect the rights of defendants are often overlooked.

Innocent Murengezi is not the first member of the judiciary to “disappear.” On 10 October 1994, **Gratien Ruhorahoza**, President of the High Court in Kigali, was arrested by soldiers at his home in Kigali. He has not been heard of since. Two days earlier, he had ordered the release of some 80 detainees from Kigali prison, judging that there was insufficient evidence to try them. Most of those released under his order were rearrested shortly afterwards.

In March 1995 the State Prosecutor, **François-Xavier Nsanzuwera**, fled the country after a series of death threats. He had denounced human rights abuses in Rwanda and the interference of the military in the judicial system. He continues to live in exile.

lack of objectivity of committees set up by the government to study detainees’ case files. His trial began in February 1997. He was found guilty of participation in the genocide and sentenced to death in August 1997.

Célestin Kayibanda, prosecutor in the southern town of Butare, was arrested in May 1996, after he too had denounced the

interference of the military authorities in the functioning of the judiciary. He is awaiting trial on charges of participation in the genocide.

Vincent Nkezabaganwa, President of the State Council and Vice President of Rwanda's Supreme Court, was gunned down in his home in Kigali by men in military clothes on 14 February 1997. Three other people present

at the time were also killed. No inquiry is known to have taken place to establish who was responsible for their deaths and the perpetrators have not been brought to justice.

Many members of the judiciary continue to live in fear, without any protection against arbitrary arrest, "disappearance" or unlawful killing.

What you can do:

- **Write to the Rwandese Minister of Justice and the President of Rwanda**
 - Stating your concerns about the safety of legal professionals in Rwanda;
 - Asking for a full and public inquiry into the "disappearance" of Innocent Murengezi, and for those found responsible to be brought to justice;
 - Appealing for commutation of the death sentence against Silas Munyagishali;
 - Asking for details of the specific charges against André Bimenyimana and for assurances that his physical safety will be guaranteed;
 - Asking for investigations into other cases of human rights abuses against judicial officials, in particular the killing of Vincent Nkezabaganwa;
 - Seeking assurances that legal officials whose work is to deliver justice and protect human rights are themselves protected from human rights abuses in the pursuit of their profession.

Addresses:

Minister of Justice: Dr Faustin NTEZILYAYO, Ministre de la Justice, Ministère de la Justice, BP 160 Kigali, Rwanda (Fax: 250-86509)

President: Son Excellence Pasteur BIZIMUNGU, Président de la République, Présidence de la République, BP 15 Kigali, Rwanda (Fax: 250-84769 / 84390)

- **Write to your own government and/or your local parliamentarian:**

Ask them to use their influence to help stop human rights violations in Rwanda, for example:

 - by putting direct diplomatic pressure on the Rwandese authorities to investigate cases of human rights violations against judicial officials;
 - by making public statements denouncing these human rights violations;
 - by providing appropriate assistance to the Rwandese Government to help rebuild an independent, impartial and competent judicial system which will protect human rights and provides fair trials;
 - by raising these issues through international organizations such as the United Nations, the European Union or the Organization for African Unity;
 - by offering to provide human and material resources that may be required to protect potential victims of human rights violations.
- **Contact individual lawyers and lawyers' associations in your country:**

Ask them to write appeals to the Rwandese Government, preferably in their professional capacity, making the points outlined above, and ask them to write to the press, TV and radio in your country, asking questions about why continuing human rights violations in Rwanda are being ignored.

RWANDA: CHILDREN AND STUDENTS

On the evening of 18 March 1997, armed men arrived at **Nyange primary school**, in Kibuye *préfecture* in western Rwanda, and attacked the pupils with guns and grenades. Six pupils, most of them girls, and one guard were killed. The attack has been attributed by the Rwandese authorities to members of the former Rwandese army or *interahamwe* militia. Yet no full, independent investigation is known to have been carried out to identify the perpetrators. Local sources have offered a different version of events. They believe the attack was carried out by soldiers of the Rwandese Patriotic Army (RPA), possibly in revenge against pupils and teachers who had prevented a group of soldiers from entering the school about two weeks earlier. In addition, several witnesses to the attack were reportedly arrested and one woman who claimed to have identified the assailants was reportedly shot dead the day after the attack.

Innocent victims of deliberate and arbitrary violence

Just over a month later, on 27 April 1997, a group of around 100 armed men attacked several educational and religious institutions and houses in Satinsyi, in Gisenyi *préfecture*. Twenty-two people were killed, most of them young women. Sixteen female students were shot dead in the dormitory of a school of economics and commerce, a 14-year-old girl was killed in a convent, and a 62 year-old Belgian nun was killed in the primary school of which she was the director. Shortly afterwards, it was reported that some people had been arrested in connection with the attack and that 19 suspects had been killed by the security forces. The following week, two other schools were reportedly attacked and both school directors killed. The circumstances of these attacks are unclear.

On 22 August 1997, at least 130 refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC - formerly Zaire) were massacred during the night in a refugee camp at Mudende, in Gisenyi, northwestern Rwanda. The victims included many children, some of whom were killed while they slept. Most of the victims were members of the Tutsi ethnic group. The perpetrators are thought to be members of an armed Hutu group, possibly allied to the former Rwandese army or *interahamwe* militia. Following this attack, an unknown number of Hutu civilians in the area were killed in a reprisal attack by Tutsi civilians and at least 17 alleged “infiltrators” were killed by RPA soldiers.

What you can do:

- **Write to the Rwandese Minister of Education and the Minister of the Interior:**
 - Stating your concern about deliberate and arbitrary killings of children and students in Rwanda in 1997, such as those at Nyange and Muramba;
 - Appealing for action to prevent further such killings and for protection to be provided for schools and educational institutions located in areas of insecurity;
 - Calling for independent and impartial investigations into the killings, and for the perpetrators to be identified and brought formally to justice in accordance with international standards of fairness.

Addresses:

Minister of Education: Colonel Joseph KAREMERA, Ministre de l'Education nationale, Kigali, République rwandaise

Minister of the Interior: M.Cheikh Abdul Karim HARELIMANA, Ministre de l'Intérieur, BP 446 Kigali, République rwandaise (Fax: 250-84373/83374)

- **Write to your own government and/or your local parliamentary group**
Ask them to use their influence to help stop the killings in Rwanda, for example:
 - by putting direct diplomatic pressure on the Rwandese authorities to prevent further killings;
 - by making public statements denouncing the killings, especially the deliberate killings of children and students;
 - by raising these issues through international organizations such as the United Nations, the European Union or the Organization for African Unity;
 - by offering to provide human and material resources that may be required to protect potential victims of human rights violations.
- **Try to mobilize youth and student groups or teachers' associations in your country.**
Ask them to write appeals about the cases above to the Rwandese authorities and to call for children and students to be protected from deliberate and arbitrary killings.

Between January and August 1997, at least 6,000 people - the majority unarmed civilians, including many children - have been deliberately killed in Rwanda, some by the RPA, others by armed opposition groups. Both sides are victimizing innocent populations to wage their undeclared war. The lack of investigations into most of these massacres and the continuing impunity which protects the perpetrators has fed into the cycle of violence and has encouraged civilians to take the law into their own hands.

RWANDA: REFUGEES RETURNING HOME

Euphrasie Nyiramajyambere

and her four children

killed for coming home

Euphrasie Nyiramajyambere, 37 years old, and her four children - **Arthur-Aimé Rugero**, aged 14, **Ange Rugwiro**, aged 12, and **Nathalie Rugorirwera** and **Anatole Ruberangabo**, twins aged 8 - were killed in Ruhengeri, northwestern Rwanda, six months after the family had returned home from a refugee camp in the former Zaire (now Democratic Republic of Congo). Her husband had been killed during an attack on Kibumba refugee camp in October 1996.

Euphrasie Nyiramajyambere is one of thousands of unarmed civilians killed in the northwest of Rwanda since the beginning of 1997. The number of killings rose dramatically after the return of hundreds of thousands of refugees from eastern Zaire, after the camps in which they lived were attacked by forces of the *Alliance des forces démocratiques pour la libération du Congo-Zaire* (Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire), assisted by soldiers of the Rwandese Patriotic Army (RPA) in October 1996. Many victims of the killings in Rwanda in 1997 have been returnees from the former Zaire.

The Rwandese Government claims that most of the killings in the northwest are carried out by armed opposition groups allied to the former Rwandese army and *interahamwe* militia. They also claim that most of the civilians who In 1996 and 1997, several governments hosting large numbers of Rwandese refugees declared it "safe" for them to return to their homes in Rwanda - despite overwhelming evidence to the contrary. Hundreds of thousands of refugees were forced back, while the

have died were caught in the cross-fire between these armed groups and the RPA. However, survivors and witnesses of these killings have consistently stated that RPA soldiers were responsible for many of these killings, in particular during military "cordon and search" operations. Many villagers have been killed on suspicion of having links with armed opposition groups or providing them with shelter. Most of the victims have been defenceless civilians, including the elderly and young children. In the vast majority of cases, the government has not ordered any independent inquiries into these killings.

governments responsible for these decisions made no attempt to ensure they were returning to a safe environment and simply washed their hands of their fate. By January 1997, more than one million refugees had been forced to return to Rwanda - many to areas of

great insecurity, such as Ruhengeri or Gisenyi in the northwest. Reports of killings of unarmed civilians - include many returnees - quickly soared into the hundreds, then into the thousands. International agencies cannot adequately investigate these killings or monitor the fate of returnees because many of these areas are too dangerous. Members of international humanitarian organizations have

also been targeted for attack; for example, five United Nations human rights observers were killed in February 1997.

In addition to those who have been killed, many returnees have “disappeared”. Their families remain without news of their fate.

What you can do:

- **Write to the Rwandese Minister of Interior and Minister of Defence**

- Stating your concern about the large number of killings in Rwanda in 1997, since the mass return of refugees at the end of 1996;
- Pointing out that although the government of Rwanda claims that many of these killings are taking place in the context of armed conflict, many of the victims are unarmed civilians who were not taking part in hostilities, such as young children;
- Mentioning the case of Euphrasie Nyiramajyambere and her four children as an example of returnees who have been killed;
- urging the Rwandese authorities to protect these vulnerable groups and to take measures to prevent further killings of unarmed civilians, including returnees.

Addresses:

Minister of the Interior: M.Cheikh Abdul Karim HARELIMANA, Ministre de l’Intérieur, BP 446 Kigali, République rwandaise (Fax: 250-84373/83374)

Minister of Defense: Major-General Paul KAGAME, Ministre de la Défense, BP 23 Kigali, République rwandaise (Fax: 250-72431/76969)

- **Write to the ministry of foreign affairs or the ministry responsible for refugee matters in your country**

- explaining what is happening to refugees who have been forcibly sent home to Rwanda: that many have been subjected to arbitrary killings and other human rights abuses;
- seeking assurances that your government will not forcibly repatriate any refugees to Rwanda;
- urging them to assist and support member states of the Organization for African Unity and international organizations such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, in seeking and implementing alternative solutions for the protection of Rwandese refugees until it is safe for them to return to Rwanda;
- asking them to publicly denounce the killings in Rwanda.

- **Write to your local parliamentarian**

Ask them to use their influence to help stop the killings in Rwanda, for example:

- by raising the matter with your government and asking them to put direct diplomatic pressure on the Rwandese authorities to prevent further killings;
- by appealing to your government not to forcibly repatriate any refugees to Rwanda.

RWANDA: SOLDIERS OF THE FORMER ARMY

killed for his career

Major Jean de Dieu Bizabarimana, his wife Perpétue, their children and several neighbours - 16 people in total - were killed in their home in Nyarutovu *commune* in Ruhengeri, northwestern Rwanda, on 18 January 1997. Jean de Dieu Bizabarimana and his family had been refugees in the former Zaire and had returned to Rwanda in November 1996. Although the identity of the killers has never been discovered, the killing typifies a pattern of abuses against members of the *Forces armées rwandaises* the former Rwandese army, known as ex-FAR.

On 19 January, an **ex-FAR captain and eleven members of his family** - also returnees from the former Zaire - were killed in Nkuli *commune*, in Ruhengeri. On 20 January 1997, another **ex-FAR major, Bizavarande**, was killed in Nyarutovu along with four relatives and seven other people. And on 21 January, **ex-FAR colonel Stanislas Hakizimana**, his wife Eugénie Mukandinda, their four children, three other relatives and 12 neighbours were all killed in their home in Satinsyi *commune*, in Gisenyi.

No inquiry is known to have been held into any of these killings and the perpetrators have not been brought to justice.

Other ex-FAR have been unlawfully killed in detention. On 22 January, **ex-FAR Major Lambert Rugambage** was taken by soldiers from a military detention centre in Kibungo in eastern Rwanda and never returned. His body was found several days later in the morgue, reportedly bearing signs of severe beatings.

Many ex-FAR surrendered at the end of the war in July 1994 and others returned from exile. The cases mentioned above represent just a tiny fraction of the number of people killed in Rwanda since the start of 1997. Thousands of people - the majority unarmed civilians - have been massacred, some by soldiers of the RPA,

to be integrated into the new national army, the Rwandese Patriotic Army (RPA). Although some were officially integrated, many others were arrested and detained, usually in military camps, some even after their integration. Most of those detained have been accused of participation in the genocide, which claimed as many as one million lives in Rwanda in 1994. However, few have been formally charged.

While many ex-FAR undoubtedly played a leading role in ordering and carrying out massacres in 1994, not all ex-FAR took part in the killings. Survivors of the genocide have described how some ex-FAR assisted victims and helped protect them. Yet ex-FAR living in Rwanda under the present government are often labelled as “*genocidaires*” simply on the basis of their former profession - regardless of the particular role they may or may not have played during the genocide. Many have been ill-treated and others killed without even having been formally charged or tried for any specific crime.

People suspected of participation in crimes must be tried on an individual basis. Blanket accusations of *participation in genocide* only expose individuals to further human rights abuses, and the fact that specific individuals may have committed grave human rights violations can never justify carrying out further human rights violations against them. Instead, these accusations should be thoroughly investigated and the individuals brought to justice, according to proper procedures and international standards.

It is not only ex-FAR themselves but also innocent members of their families who have been targeted. In the cases above, the wives and children of ex-FAR and other friends and relatives have also been brutally murdered - simply for their association with the former soldiers.

others by armed opposition groups believed to be allied to the ex-FAR. Only in a small minority of cases have the Rwandese authorities carried out investigations into these killings and identified those responsible.

What you can do:

- **Write to the Rwandese Ministry of Defence**

- Stating your concerns about unlawful killings of ex-FAR who have returned from exile;
- Asking for an inquiry into the cases mentioned above and for the perpetrators to be brought to justice;
- Seeking assurances that ex-FAR will not be subjected to further human rights abuses simply because they were members of the former army;
- appealing for proper judicial procedures to be adhered to in cases where ex-FAR are suspected of participation in massacres and for these individuals to be charged and tried according to international standards of fairness, and without recourse to the death penalty.

Address:

Minister of Defence: Major-General Paul KAGAME, Ministre de la Défense, BP 23 Kigali, République rwandaise (Fax: 250-72431/76969)

- **Write to your own government and/or your local parliamentarian**

Ask them to use their influence to help stop further killings in Rwanda, for example:

- by putting direct diplomatic pressure on the Rwandese authorities;
- by making public statements denouncing the killings;
- by raising the issues through international organizations such as the United Nations, the European Union or the Organization for African Unity;
- by offering to provide human and material resources that may be required to protect potential victims of human rights violations.

- **If your country has military links with Rwanda, write to your ministry of defence:**

- Describing the cases of unlawful killings of ex-FAR mentioned above;
- Expressing concern that all ex-FAR are being labelled as killers, simply because of their former profession; stating that their families are also being unjustly victimized;
- Appealing for any ex-FAR who were responsible for massacres to be brought to justice according to proper procedures;
- Asking your government to use its influence to persuade the Rwandese authorities to prevent further unlawful killings of ex-FAR and to promote genuine reconciliation in the armed forces.

RWANDA: AID WORKERS

killed trying to help others survive

Jean de Dieu Murwanashyaka worked for the World Food Program (WFP) in Ruhengeri, northwestern Rwanda, where the WFP was distributing food to returning refugees. He had himself been a refugee in the former Zaire. On 9 June 1997, he was arrested by soldiers and taken to an unknown destination. Four days later, his badly-mutilated body was found in the bush near his home; he had been shot through the head. His wife, pregnant with their first child, has been traumatized by his death and continues to live in fear for her own life.

Around the same period, another WFP employee, **Didace Nkezagera**, was questioned by soldiers of the Rwandese Patriotic Army (RPA) on the work of WFP in Ruhengeri, after he had complained to local authorities about the diversion of food aid from its intended recipients. On 15 June he too was killed, in his home, with his wife, their young child and another relative.

Jean de Dieu Murwanashyaka and Didace Nkezagera were just two of many Rwandese who lost their lives while trying to relieve the suffering of others. Other employees of aid organizations and international agencies, both Rwandese and foreign nationals, have been targeted as well as individuals whose daily work involves assisting local communities rebuild their lives, people such as local administrators, health and education workers and religious officials.

Attacks on such individuals have intensified since the return of hundreds of thousands of Rwandese refugees in late 1996 as disputes have arisen over precious land and property and much-needed humanitarian assistance. Several employees of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) - the organization mandated to protect refugees and monitor the fate of returnees - have been killed in 1997.

Meanwhile, unarmed civilians continue to be killed, away from the glare of international attention. At least 6,000 unarmed civilians are

One tragic consequence of these attacks has been that most international humanitarian organizations have been forced to cut back their programs or even withdraw completely from the northwest of Rwanda - where most of these killings have occurred and where armed conflict between the RPA and armed opposition groups allied to the former army has created widespread insecurity. The result is that the people most in need of assistance are being deprived of it.

estimated to have been killed by the RPA or by armed opposition groups in 1997 alone.

What you can do:

- **Write to the Rwandese Minister of the Interior and the Rwandese Minister for the Family and Social Affairs:**
 - Asking them to initiate an inquiry into the killing of Jean de Dieu Murwanashyaka, Didace Nkezagera and other humanitarian workers and to bring the perpetrators to justice;
 - Asking them to strongly and publicly condemn such killings and to ensure the protection of individuals working for humanitarian organizations.

Addresses:

Minister of the Interior: M.Cheikh Abdul Karim HARELIMANA, Ministre de l'Intérieur, BP 446 Kigali, République rwandaise (Fax: 250-84373/83374)

Minister of Defense: Mme Aloysie INYUMBA, Ministre de la Famille, de la Promotion féminine et des affaires sociales, BP 1413, Kigali, République rwandaise (Fax: 250-77543)

- **Write to your own government and/or your local parliamentarian**
Ask them to use their influence to help stop the killings in Rwanda, for example:
 - by putting direct diplomatic pressure on the Rwandese authorities to prevent further killings;
 - by demanding an independent inquiry into the killings mentioned above and that those found responsible be brought to justice;
 - by making public statements denouncing the killings;
 - by raising the issues through international organizations such as the United Nations, the European Union or the Organization for African Unity;
 - by offering to provide human and material resources that may be required to protect potential victims of human rights violations.
- **Write to your country's branch of international humanitarian agencies working in Rwanda**, such as the World Food Program or the Red Cross, expressing your support for their efforts to assist the population in Rwanda and telling them about the actions by Amnesty International and others to help stop the killings in Rwanda and to call for the protection of humanitarian workers.