

UA 129/86

Fear of further extrajudicial executions

8 June 1986

~~BURUNDI~~ ~~Civilian population of suburb of Kamenge~~

---

Amnesty International is gravely concerned about reports of killings of civilians by the Burundi army in the Kamenge suburb of the Burundi capital, Bujumbura. Amnesty International is concerned that many innocent civilians may have been killed since 31 May and that there is a real risk of further extrajudicial executions. The wounded have no access to medical care or food, and others are likely to be dying from starvation and exposure.

This is the latest in a series of incidents which appears to be aimed at forcibly removing the Hutu population in Bujumbura. The number of victims remains unknown. Since 30 May, the army has kept the suburb cordoned off with large numbers of heavily armed troops supported by armoured cars. Government officials and representatives of intergovernmental organizations and those of human rights and humanitarian organizations were prevented from entering Kamenge until 7 June when they were allowed to visit a few restricted areas. A source in Bujumbura has informed Amnesty International that the representatives could not tell how many people had been killed, although they could see homes being burned and others which had been destroyed. Humanitarian organizations have only been allowed to evacuate several dozen wounded civilians and feed others who have been able to reach the perimeter of the suburb.

Reports from Bujumbura on 7 June say that the army is moving in to remove all civilians from Kamenge in a bid to rid the suburb of armed gangs. A few days ago, Prime Minister Antoine Nduwayo announced that all civilians would be asked to leave Kamenge, and there are reports that this may be the latest phase in the "ethnic cleansing" of Bujumbura to remove all Hutu from the city. Amnesty International is concerned that, in this operation, as in the past, the armed forces will resort to unrestrained lethal force with impunity.

The Burundi government is not known to have taken any measures to ensure that unarmed civilians or those who are *hors de combat* are protected from extrajudicial executions and any other human rights violations.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Thousands of civilians have been seen fleeing into the hills near Kamenge. There have been reports that rounds of shells have been fired at the fleeing civilians to drive them further away from the suburb. Violence has also been reported in another Hutu-dominated suburb of Kinama. In March 1995, several hundred Hutu civilians were killed and thousands others driven out of Buyenzi and Bwiza suburbs by Tutsi armed civilians and members of the security forces.

This is the latest in a series of military operations carried out since 1994, ostensibly to disarm armed Hutu militia. On each occasion, several hundred Hutu civilians, many of them unarmed men, women and children, were extrajudicially executed. No operation has been carried out to disarm armed Tutsi militia who themselves have been responsible for many acts of violence, particularly deliberate and arbitrary killings of unarmed Hutu civilians, often in collusion with the Tutsi-dominated armed forces.

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

- appealing to the Burundi military authorities to promptly allow independent observers, particularly representatives of the Organization of African Unity, the United Nations, and humanitarian and human rights organizations based in Bujumbura, unreserved access to the suburb to investigate and report on the human rights and humanitarian situation there;
- requesting the authorities to publicly condemn any abuses committed by the armed forces, to make it clear that human rights abuses will not be tolerated

and that anyone found responsible for human rights violations will be brought to justice;

- urging the Burundi government to promptly set up an independent and impartial investigation into reports that members of the security forces have been carrying out massive human rights abuses, and to ensure that those found responsible are brought to justice;

- urging the Burundi civilian and military authorities to take immediate steps to prevent further extrajudicial executions and other human rights violations against civilians.

**APPEALS TO:**

1) President

Son Excellence

le Président Sylvestre NTIBANTUNGANYA

Président de la République

Présidence de la République

BP 1870

Bujumbura

République du Burundi

**Telegrams: President NTIBANTUNGANYA**

**Telexes: 5036 PRESIBU BDI ) Problems reported with both these numbers:**

**Faxes: + 257 22 6424 ) please keep trying.**

**Salutation: Monsieur le Président de la République/Dear President**

2) Minister of Defence

Major Firmin SINZOYIHEBA

Ministre de la Défense Nationale

Ministère de la Défense

BP 1870

Bujumbura

République du Burundi

**Telegrams: Ministre Sinzoyiheba**

**Faxes: + 257 22 21 48**

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

3) Army Chief of Staff

Lt-Col Jean BIKOMAGU

Chef d'Etat-major général des

Forces armées

Etat-major général des Forces armées

Ministère de la Défense nationale

Bujumbura

République du Burundi

**Telegrams: CEMG Bikomagu**

**Faxes: + 257 22 21 48**

**Salutation: Monsieur le Chef d'Etat-major/ Dear Chief of Staff**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

Prime Minister

Monsieur Antoine NDUWAYO

Premier Ministre

Présidence de la République

BP 2800

Bujumbura

République du Burundi  
**Faxes : + 257 22 64 24**

Gendarmerie Chief of Staff  
Major Epitaphe BAYAGANAKANDI  
Chef de l'Etat-major général  
de la gendarmerie  
Etat-major général de la gendarmerie  
Ministère de la Défense nationale  
Bujumbura  
République du Burundi

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 20 July 1995.