

---

# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICE 67/94

---

TO: PRESS OFFICERS  
FROM: IS PRESS OFFICE  
DATE: 7 APRIL 1994

NO OF WORDS:572

AI INDEX: NWS 11/67/94  
DISTR: SC/PO

NEWS SERVICE ITEMS: EXTERNAL - RWANDA/BURUNDI

PLEASE NOTE: If you need more information on the situation in Rwanda see News Services 168/93 and 34/94, and News Services 22/94, 45/94 and 62/94 on Burundi

NEWS INITIATIVES - INTERNAL

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS RELEASES

South Africa - 8 April - SEE NEWS SERVICE 63/94  
Hong Kong - 21 April - SEE NEWS SERVICE 36/94  
Trade Unionists - 29 April - SEE NEWS SERVICE 62  
Saudi Arabia - 10 May - SEE NEWS SERVICE 62  
Burundi - 16 May - SEE NEWS SERVICES 53/94 and 36/94

## TARGETED AND LIMITED NEWS RELEASES

Switzerland CAT - 19 April - SEE NEWS SERVICE 53/94  
Israel & OT CAT - 25 April - SEE NEWS SERVICE 53/94

## FORTHCOMING NEWS INITIATIVES

Annual Report - 7 July - SEE NEWS SERVICE 51/94

**News Service 67/94**

**AI INDEX: AFR 47/WU 02/94**

**7 April 1994**

**AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL APPEALS FOR CALM IN RWANDA AND BURUNDI**

Amnesty International is concerned that last night's killing of the presidents of Rwanda and Burundi could provoke further human rights violations in those countries. The human rights organization appeals for calm in the hope that further violations will not be committed as a result of these killings.

Press reports indicate that the Rwandan presidential plane was shot down as it arrived in Rwanda, killing Presidents Juvénal Habyarimana of Rwanda and Cyprien Ntaryamira of Burundi as well as several other officials of both countries. No one has claimed responsibility for the incident.

There are reports that three Rwandan ministers and three United Nations Peacekeeping officials are being held by members of the Presidential Guard. Amnesty International is appealing that all three ministers and their families are protected against ill-treatment and that their well-being is guaranteed while they remain in custody. The three ministers are Faustin Rucogoza, Minister of Information; Landoald Ndasigwa, Minister of Employment and Social Affairs; and Frédéric Nzamurambano, Minister of Agriculture.

Two human rights activists, Monique Mujawamaliya and Charles Shamukiga, are also reported to be held by members of the Presidential Guard. Amnesty International is also appealing for them to be protected against ill-treatment and that their well-being is guaranteed while they remain in custody.

Rwanda has seen many political killings in recent years. Amnesty International last publicly appealed to Rwanda's authorities in February 1994 to take urgent measures to end a recent upsurge in killings when at least 37 people were killed during political violence on 22 and 23 February. In a peace accord signed in August 1993 the government and the Front patriotique rwandais (FPR), Rwandese Patriotic Front, agreed to end hostilities which began in October 1990 and to form a broad-based transitional government. Some sources said that the February violence was orchestrated to prevent the installation of a transitional coalition government, which had been repeatedly postponed and was still not in place.

Since October 1993, when elements of Burundi's army tried to seize power and executed the country's first democratically elected President, tens of thousands of people have been killed in the political violence which followed. Hundreds of thousands of people have been displaced. Amnesty International has repeatedly called on the Burundi authorities to take urgent measures to halt the perpetration of human rights violations and has urged the international community to assist in restoring calm to Burundi.

The Presidents of Burundi and Rwanda were returning from a meeting whose aim was to resolve this Burundi crisis and ensure implementation of the peace accord in Rwanda when their plane was reportedly shot down.

For further information see News Services 168/93 and 34/94 for items on Rwanda, and News Services 22/94, 45/94 and 62/94 on Burundi.

**ENDS/**