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11 April 1994

Further information on UA 140/94 (AFR 47/03/94, 8 April 1994) - Extrajudicial executions / Fear of further killings

RWANDAFaustin Rucogoza, Minister of Information

Landoald Ndasingwa, Minister of Employment and Social Affairs

Frédéric Nzamurambano, Minister of Agriculture

Charles Shamukiga, human rights activist

and hundreds of others

Amnesty International has received confirmation that the three ministers named above have been extrajudicially executed. It is not clear whether their families, who were reported have to been taken into custody with them by the Presidential Guard, have also been killed. As yet, there is no news on the fate of Charles Shamukiga, of the Association des volontaires de la paix, (AVP), Association of Peace Volunteers, who was reportedly taken away be members of the Presidential Guard on 7 April. Other human rights activists are reported to have been killed and many more are missing. The president of the constitutional court is also reported to have been extrajudicially executed.

Hundreds of civilians have been killed since 7 April in the continuing political and ethnic violence in Kigali, the capital. An exact figure is not known but some sources suggest that the number of dead may run into the thousands. It appears that many of those killed were extrajudicially executed by members of the Presidential Guard, targeted because of their known or suspected opposition to President Habyirmana or because of their ethnic group.

An interim government was announced on 9 April. Venat Sindikubwabo, former speaker in the National Assembly was appointed President, and Jean Kambando, of the Democratic and Republican Movement (MDR), Prime Minster. The Front patriotique rwandais (FPR), Rwandese Patriotic Front has rejected the interim government. Fighting between government forces and the FPR is continuing both in Kigali and in the provinces, despite the announcement of a UN-brokered ceasefire on 9 April.

Amnesty International is appealing to the newly established transitional government, and renewing its appeals to the security forces and all other parties to restore calm in order that further killings may be prevented.

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

- condemning the extrajudicial execution of the ministers named above and of hundreds of unarmed civilians since 7 April 1994, and appealing to all parties to do all in their power to halt the fighting and prevent further killings and other human rights violations;
- expressing concern at reports of the arrest of a number of opposition figures, human rights activists and civilians;
- seeking assurances that any detainees are not being subjected to torture or any other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment;
- asking that their place of detention and the reasons for their detention be made public and that they be released immediately if they are not to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence;

- urging the authorities to set up an independent and impartial investigation to establish the exact causes of these killings with a view to identifying and bringing the perpetrators to justice.

APPEALS TO:

1) Son Excéllence

Monsieur Venat Sindikubwabo

La Présidence

BP 15, Kigali, République rwandaise Faxes: + 250 72902/ + 250 74583

Telexes: 22502

Telegrams: President Sindikubwabo, Kigali, Rwanda

Salutation: Monsieur le Président de la République / Dear President

2) Commandant de la Garde présidentielle

La Présidence

BP 15, Kigali, République rwandaise Faxes: + 250 72902/ + 250 74583

Telexes: 22502

Telegrams: Commandant de la Guarde presidentielle, Kigali, Rwanda

Salutation: Monsieur le Commandant / Dear Commander

3) Monsieur KAMBANDO

Premier Ministre

La Présidence

BP 15, Kigali, République rwandaise

Faxes: + 250 74583 Telexes: 22517

Telegrams: Premier Ministre, Kigali, Rwanda

Salutation: Monsieur le Premier Ministre / Dear Prime Minister

4) Colonel GATSINZI

Chef d'Etat-major des Forces armées rwandaises

Ministère de la Défense nationale BP 85, Kigali, République rwandaise

Faxes: + 250 74583 Telexes: 22517

Telegrams: Chef d'Etat-major, Ministere Defense, Kigali, Rwanda Salutation: Monsieur le Chef d'Etat-major / Dear Chief of Staff

The intermin government is apparently holding talks at the ${\it Hotel des Diplomates}$ in Kigali. Immediate appeals should also be sent there. The fax number is:

+ 250 7 51112

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR), PO Box 749, Kigali, Rwanda

Abbé SIBOMANA André, Rédacteur-en-Chef, Journal Kinyamateka, BP 761, KIGALI, Rwanda

Minister of Justice, Madame NTAMABYALIRO Agnès, BP 2119, KIGALI, Rwanda

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 23 May 1994.