Further information on UA 435/91 (AFR 16/06/91, 11 December 1991) - Extrajudicial Executions/Legal Concern and new concern Torture

BURUNDI: Isidore Ciiza, a farmer and taxi operator

- Maria Mawazo (f), wife of Isidore Ciiza
- Nduwimana, 5-year boy
- Anita, 4-year old boy
- Guillaume, an 8-months old boy
- Goretti (f), a 6-year old girl
- Generose (f), Isidore Ciiza's 18-year old housemaid

Isidore Ciiza was arrested on 9 December 1991 in Cibitoke zone of Bujumbura, the capital of Burundi. His arrest took place as he returned from Muzinda, 15 kilometres from Bujumbura, with his second wife, following the extrajudicial execution of all the other six members of his household around 26 November 1991. He was arrested on the orders of a government official.

Amnesty International has learnt that he is currently held in a cell at the headquarters of the Brigade spéciale de recherche (BSR), Special Investigation Brigade, in Bujumbura. He is reported to have been subjected to severe beatings and torture under interrogation. It has been reported that he has sustained two broken ribs and that his legs are swollen at the ankles. He is not known to have received medical care for the injuries. Since the beginning in July 1991 of the current spate of arrests, detainees held by the BSR are reported to have been tortured and subjected to other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.

Amnesty International is concerned about both the physical and psychological welfare of Isidore Ciiza. He is being held in custody without charge or trial and has reportedly been subjected to severe ill-treatment in addition to soldiers having extrajudicially executed most members of his household. Amnesty International is also concerned that he may be held solely because he is member of the Hutu ethnic group who are of high social standing.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/Telexes/express and airmail letters in FRENCH if possible:

- expressing concern about the physical and psychological welfare of Isidore Ciiza as a result of his continuing detention without charge or trial and reported severe ill-treatment since 9 December 1991, in addition to having had most members of his household executed extrajudicially by members of the Burundi armed forces;

- asking for assurances that Isidore Ciiza is no longer being ill-treated and that he is being allowed to receive adequate medical care;

- expressing concern that members of the Brigade spéciale de recherche (BSR), Special
Investigation Brigade, are reported to have been responsible for torture and other forms of ill-treatment in recent months and that the authorities do not seem to have taken any action to bring an end to human rights violations, including torture and other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, by the BSR;

- urging the authorities to order an independent and impartial investigation into allegations that Isidore Ciiza and other detainees have been subjected to torture and other forms of ill-treatment by the BSR and other security services, and to bring those found to be responsible to justice and compensate the victims;

- urging the authorities to ensure that if Isidore Ciiza is being held solely because of his ethnic origin and social status he is released without delay, and that if recognizably criminal charges are to be brought against him he is referred to the procuracy with a view to bringing him promptly to trial.

APPEALS TO:

1. President: 
Son Excellence
Major Pierre Buyoya Président de la République
Présidence de la République
BP 1870,
Bujumbura, République du Burundi
Telegrams: President Buyoya, Bujumbura, Burundi
Telexes: 5039 presibu bdi or 5049 mnd bdi

2. Prime Minister: 
Monsieur Adrien Sibomana
Ministre Ntahuga / Dear Minister
Ministre de la Planification
Présidence de la République
BP 1870
Bujumbura, République du Burundi
Telegrams: Premier Ministre Sibomana, Bujumbura, Burundi
Telexes: 5039 presibu bdi

3. Minister of Justice: 
Monsieur Sébastien Ntahuga
Ministre Ntahuga / Dear Minister
Ministre de la Justice
Ministère de la Justice
BP 1880
Bujumbura, République du Burundi
Telegrams: Ministre Ntahuga, Bujumbura, Burundi
Telexes: via Ministry of Foreign Affairs: 5065 minirext, attn Ministre Ntahuga

COPIES TO:

Minister of the Interior: 
Monsieur Libère Bararunyeretse
Ministre de l'Intérieur et du Développement des collectivités locales
Ministère de l'Intérieur, BP 1910
Bujumbura, République du Burundi

Minister of Foreign Affairs: 
Monsieur Cyprien Mbonimpa
Ministre des Relations extérieures et de la
and to diplomatic representatives of Burundi in your country

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 27 January 1992.