

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 415/91 (AFR 16/04/91, 27 November 1991) - Torture/Legal concerns

Burundi: **Libère Barankitse**, trader

***Liboire Bucumi**, employee of Burundi Central Bank

***Emmanuel Ciiza**, construction technician

Antoine Habonimana, employee of Burundi Central Bank

Samuel Magenge, employee of Prince Regent Hospital

+**Côme Minani**, employee at Bujumbura airport

***William Munyembabazi**, Director of PSTP Development Project

+**Charles Muringa**, Musaga zone leader

Vincent Ndayihebura, security guard

***Severin Nsengimana**, employee of Ministry of Health

Fidèle Ntezahorirwa, employee of Ministry of Interior

***Philippe Nzobonariba**, employee of Martens Enterprise

***Augustin Nzojibwami**, secondary school teacher

and nearly 200 others (names unknown)

* released

+ never arrested

Amnesty International has learnt that **Liboire Bucumi**, **Emmanuel Ciiza**, **William Munyembabazi**, **Severin Nsengimana**, **Philippe Nzobonariba** and **Augustin Nzojibwami** were released within days of their arrest. **Côme Minani** who was never arrested is said to be in hiding fearing arrest. **Charles Muringa** was also never arrested. Those believed to be still held in custody are **Libère Barankitse**, **Antoine Habonimana**, **Samuel Magenge**, **Vincent Ndayihebura** and **Fidèle Ntezahorirwa**. They are now said to be held either at Mpimba central prison or at the detention centre of the *Brigade spéciale de recherche* (BSR) Special Investigation Brigade, a branch of the National Gendarmerie, in the capital, Bujumbura. Those still held are not known to have been formally charged with any offence.

More than 300 people, virtually all of them members of the majority Hutu ethnic group have been arrested in connection with a rebel attack on military and other installations in Bujumbura and the northwestern provinces of Cibitoke and Bubanza which started on 23 November 1991. At least 159 of those arrested are known to have been released. Fifty-five others are still held at Mpimba prison and 104 at the BSR detention centre. The whereabouts of at least 30 others believed to have been arrested at the end of November 1991 are not known.

Although some of those still held may have been involved in the violence Amnesty International remains concerned that many of them appear to be still held solely on the basis of denunciations, unsubstantiated by other evidence, by their neighbours accusing them of possessing firearms. Some of the denunciations are said to be based on personal envy and hatred. Many of those arrested were reportedly subjected to severe beatings at the time of their arrest and others were beaten again while in custody. In some cases some suspects were injured with bayonets. Amnesty International is still investigating reports that some detainees died in military custody.

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

- welcoming reports that some of those arrested at the end of November 1991 in connection with the rebel attack have been released and seeking assurances that their fundamental rights will be respected;

- inquiring whether Libère Barankitse, Antoine Habonimana, Samuel Magenge, Vincent Ndayihebura and Fidèle Ntezahorirwa are still held and, if so, whether they have been formally charged with any offences;

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- seeking assurances that those still held are not being ill-treated and that they have access to visits by their relatives and members of humanitarian organizations;

- urging the authorities to ensure that all those arrested solely because of their ethnic origin, social standing or uncorroborated denunciations are released without delay and that any others against whom criminal charges are to be brought are allowed legal counsel and referred to the procuracy with a view to bringing them promptly to trial.

APPEALS TO:

1. President:

Son Excellence

Monsieur le Président / Dear President

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

Monsieur le Premier Ministre /

Premier Ministre et Ministre de la Planification

Dear Prime Minister

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

des collectivités locales

Ministre de l'Intérieur et du Développement

Ministère de l'Intérieur

BP 1910

Bujumbura, République du Burundi

Minister of Foreign Affairs:

Monsieur Cyprien Mbonimpa
Ministre des Relations extérieures et de la
Coopération
Ministère des Relations extérieures
BP 1840
Bujumbura, République du Burundi

Newspaper Editor:

Monsieur le Rédacteur-en-Chef
Le Renouveau
BP 2870, Bujumbura,
République du Burundi

and to diplomatic representatives of Burundi in your country

General Administrator of National Security:

Monsieur Laurent Niyonkuru
Administrateur Général de la Sûreté
nationale
Ministère de la Défense nationale
Bujumbura, République du Burundi

President of Human Rights Organization:

Monsieur Eugène Nindorera
Président
Ligue burundaise des droits de l'homme
BP 177
Bujumbura
République du Burundi

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 21 January 1992.