

PUBLIC

AI Index: AFR 16/08/98

5 March 1998

Further information on UA 39/98 (AFR 16/04/98, 6 February 1998) - Fear of "disappearance" / Fear for safety

BURUNDI Jean Népomuscène MINANI

Amnesty International remains concerned for the safety of Jean Népomuscène Minani who was arrested by soldiers at Kwipera military position, Gasarara zone, Kanyosha commune, Rural Bujumbura on 28 November 1997. He has not been seen since.

In an appeal on 6 February 1998, Amnesty International expressed its concern that Jean Népomuscène Minani may have been "disappeared" following his arrest, or held in an unknown place of detention where he would be at grave risk of torture or ill-treatment.

The whereabouts of Jean Népomuscène Minani remain unknown despite attempts by human rights organizations, including the *Association burundaise pour la Défense des prisonniers* (ABDP), Burundian Association for the Defence of Prisoners' Rights to establish his whereabouts. Representatives of the ABDP have visited Mpimba Central prison and established that he is not held there. Amnesty International has also received confirmation that he is not held in two other places of detention in Bujumbura in the *Bataillon Para* (commando) camp where it was first thought he may be held, nor in the *Brigade spéciale de recherche* (BSR), special investigation unit.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/faxes in French or in your own language:

- expressing concern for the safety of Jean Népomuscène Minani, who has not been seen since his arrest by soldiers at Kwipera military position on 28 November 1997;
- calling for his whereabouts to be established and made public;
- calling on the authorities to take immediate steps to protect his physical integrity;
- calling on the authorities to bring to justice, in accordance with international standards of fairness, officials who are found to have carried out or condoned human rights violations.

APPEALS TO:

Please note: Fax services can be intermittent.

President

Major Pierre Buyoya

Président de la République, Présidence de la République

Telegrams: Major Buyoya, Bujumbura, Burundi

Faxes: + 257 22 74 90

Salutation: Monsieur le Président / Dear President

Minister of Justice

Monsieur Terence SINUNGURUZA

Ministre de la Justice et Garde des sceaux

Ministère de la Justice

Telegrams: Ministre Justice, Bujumbura, Burundi

Faxes: + 257 22 21 48

Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Dear Minister

Chief of Defence Staff

Lt-Col Vincent NIYUNGEKO

Chef de l'Etat-major général des Forces armées

Etat-major général des Forces armées

Ministère de la Défense nationale

Telegrams: Lt-Col Niyungeko, Bujumbura, Burundi

Faxes: + 257 22 56 86

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

COPIES TO:

Prime Minister

Pascal Firmin NDIRIRA

Premier Ministre, Bujumbura, Burundi

Faxes: + 257 22 64 24

Minister for Human Rights, Institutional Reform and Relations with the National Assembly

Eugène NINDORERA

Ministre des droits de la Personne humaine, des réformes institutionnelles, et des relations avec l'Assemblée nationale, Bujumbura, Burundi

Faxes: + 257 21 38 47

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 18 April 1998.