

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AFR 16/09/97

25 March 1997

Further information (1) on UA 74/97 (AFR 16/05/97, 19 March 1997) - Arbitrary arrest / fear of torture / possible prisoner of conscience

BURUNDI Madame Solange NDIKUMANA (f), employee of the Ministry of Finance

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Madame Solange Ndikumana, who was arrested on 7 March 1997, was released on 21 March 1997. She has not been charged with any offence.

Solange Ndikumana was arrested because of a letter she was carrying in which the writer criticized the government of Pierre Buyoya. Amnesty International had raised concerns for her safety, seeking assurances that she was being safeguarded from ill-treatment, after receiving reports that she had been ill-treated at the *Documentation nationale*, national intelligence unit, where she was held initially after her arrest before being transferred to Mpimba prison, Bujumbura. The organization had called for her to be released unconditionally if she was being held, as it appeared, solely for her non-violent opinions. She is reported not to have been tortured, although conditions of detention were harsh.

No further appeals are necessary. Many thanks to all who took part.