

PUBLIC

AI Index: AFR 16/012/2006

03 August 2006

UA 210/2006 Torture or ill-treatment / fear of torture or ill-treatment

**BURUNDI** Alphonse-Marie Kadege (m), former Vice-President of Burundi  
Damien Ndarisigaranye (m), Army Colonel  
Déo Niyonzima (m), Secretary General of the People's Reconciliation Party, *Parti pour la Réconciliation des Peuples, (PRP)*  
Alain Mugabarabona (m), President of FNL-Icanzo party (National Liberation Forces-Icanzo- Forces de Libération Nationale-Icanzo)  
Prudence Manirakiza (m), Lieutenant in the national police services  
Anicet Niyongabo (m), Commander in the National Defence Forces, *Forces de Défense Nationale, (FDN)*  
Poppon Mudugu (m), member of the organisation AC Genocide, which works to commemorate the genocide of the Tutsis

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There are fears for the safety of Alphonse-Marie Kadege, former Vice-President of Burundi, and six other detainees, after Alphonse-Marie Kadege's wife witnessed him being kicked repeatedly on his body by police officers in an interrogation room.

On 2 August, Alphonse-Marie Kadege's wife was granted access to see her husband at the Intelligence Services Headquarters in Bujumbura, the Burundian capital. As she was being led to an interrogation room where he was being held and approached the entrance to the room, she could see one of two police officers kicking her husband on his body. She was then denied access to the room and asked by the Intelligence Services to leave immediately.

Alphonse-Marie Kadege, Damien Ndarisigaranye, Déo Niyonzima, Alain Mugabarabona, Prudence Manirakiza, Anicet Niyongabo, and Poppon Mudugu, were all arrested by the Burundian Intelligence Services, *la Documentation Nationale*, between 31 July and 3 August. Poppon Mudugu was recently released from Gitega Prison on 31 May, where he and another man had been held allegedly for "threatening state security" (see UA 149/06 AFR 16/008/2006 and follow up). The two men were arrested on 21 May as they attempted to hold a monthly meeting at a local centre in the town of Gitega.

The seven people, who are all prominent members of Burundian society, have apparently been accused of being involved in a coup plot to overthrow the government of Burundi. Sources have stated that all are detained at the Intelligence Services Headquarters in the capital, Bujumbura.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in English, French or your own language:**

- expressing concern for the safety of Alphonse-Marie Kadege, and calling on the authorities to initiate immediate investigations into the allegations of torture, and if necessary, to bring the perpetrators to justice.
- expressing concern for the safety of up to seven people (please give names), the majority of whom have been arrested since 31 July, in the National Intelligence Headquarters in Bujumbura, on suspicion of plotting a coup against the government,
- calling for the authorities to protect all the detainees from torture and ill-treatment, and for them to be given immediate access to their families, medical care, lawyers, and to humanitarian and human rights organizations;
- calling for the authorities to ensure that all law enforcement agencies respect arrest and detention procedures and that access to all places of detention is guaranteed, and to take immediate action against any member of the security forces suspected of human rights abuses.

**APPEALS TO:**

**President**

Président Pierre Nkurunziza

Président de la République

Boulevard de l'Uprona

Rohero I

BP 1870, Bujumbura, Burundi

**Fax: +257 22 74 90**

**Salutation: Monsieur le Président / Excellence**

**Government Spokesperson**

Monsieur Karenga Ramadhani

Ministre de l'information, de la Communication, des Relations avec le Parlement et Porte-Parole du

Gouvernement

2e Bdg de l'INSS

Chaussée Prince Rwagasore

BP 1080, Bujumbura, Burundi

**Fax: +257 22 17 66**

**Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre**

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 14 September 2006.