

PUBLIC

AI Index: AFR 16/22/98

14 September 1998

Further information on UA 223/98 (AFR 16/18/98, 18 August 1998) and follow-up (AFR 16/19/98, 21 August 1998) - Fear for safety, Fear of torture and ill-treatment

BURUNDI Gabriel Ntahondi

Gabriel Ntahondi was unconditionally released on 8 September 1998.

Amnesty International had previously expressed concern for the safety of Gabriel Ntahondi, as following his arrest on 14 August 1998, he was initially held in an illegal place of detention, the offices of the *Groupement d'intervention*, a military unit overseeing the activities of three *bataillons d'intervention* (intervention squads) in Bujumbura, where there were no safeguards from torture or ill-treatment.

Gabriel Ntahondi was subsequently transferred to the *Brigade spéciale de recherche*, special investigation unit, in Bujumbura, a place of detention under the responsibility of the Ministry of Defence.

Gabriel Ntahondi, a trader, who travels regularly from southern Burundi and Tanzania, had been accused of smuggling arms in his produce. The basis for the accusation is not known and no arms were found when his bags and produce were searched at the time of his arrest.

No further action is required by the Urgent Action Network. Thank you to all those who sent appeals.