

PUBLIC

AI Index: AFR 16/24/99

UA 263/99

Extrajudi

BURUNDIJuvénal NIYONZIMA

Michel MANIRAMBONA

Léovín NZEYIMANA (believed killed)

Juvénal Niyonzima and Michel Manirambona have not been seen since they were arrested in the Cibitoke area of the capital, Bujumbura, on 26 September 1999, reportedly by soldiers on patrol. Amnesty International is especially concerned for their safety following reports that Léovín Nzeyimana, who "disappeared" after soldiers arrested him on 19 September, was extrajudicially executed shortly after his arrest and buried in a secret grave.

Amnesty International had been investigating the possible "disappearance" of Léovín Nzeyimana, who was on his way home when he was arrested by soldiers based in the Kamenge area of Bujumbura. The organization has now been reliably informed that Léovín Nzeyimana was extrajudicially executed by the soldiers a few hours after his arrest, at around 3am on 20 September, and that he was buried in a secret graveyard in Kamenge. The graveyard is reported to be near the Nyabagere river, on 6th Avenue, which separates the districts of Heha and Gikizi. First reports suggest that up to 15 bodies may be buried there; their identities are not known.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Bujumbura has recently been frequently attacked by armed opposition groups, who have deliberately and arbitrarily killed civilians. Since these attacks on the capital increased in August 1999, the security forces have made scores of arrests, and Amnesty International has received several reports of torture and "disappearance". Since mid-September, the area surrounding Bujumbura has been virtually cleared of civilians, who have been moved into temporary camps where they are held in appalling conditions, while the army carries out counter-insurgency operations.

More than 9,000 civilians, mostly Hutu, are held in various prisons and detention centres around Burundi. The majority are held without charge or trial, and many people are arrested on the basis of denunciation.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters (please check whether there is a postal service from your country to Burundi) in French or your own language:

- calling for urgent investigations to be carried out to establish the whereabouts of Juvénal Niyonzima and Michel Manirambona;
- calling for urgent investigations into the arrest, "disappearance" and possible extrajudicial execution of Léovín Nzeyimana;
- calling for reports that a number of bodies may have been secretly buried in the Kamenge area to be immediately investigated to establish whether they are well-founded;
- calling for those found to have committed or condoned grave human rights violations to be brought to justice.

APPEALS TO: (Please note that fax numbers can be difficult to obtain. Please keep trying.)

Minister of Justice

Monsieur Térance SINUNGURUZA
Ministre de la Justice et Garde des sceaux
Ministère de la Justice, Bujumbura, Burundi
Fax: 257 21 86 10
Telegram: Ministre Justice, Bujumbura, Burundi
Salutation : Monsieur le Ministre / Dear Minister

Minister of Defence
Lieutenant-Col. Alfred NKURUNZIZA
Ministre de la Défense Nationale
Ministère de la Défense Nationale
BP 1870 Bujumbura, Burundi
Telegrams: Ministre Défense, Bujumbura, Burundi
Faxes:+ 257 22 39 59 / 21 75 05
Salutation:Monsieur le Ministre/Dear Minister

President
Major Pierre BUYOYA
Président de la République
Présidence de la République
BP 1870 Bujumbura, Burundi
Salutation :Monsieur le Président / Dear President
Fax: + 257 22 74 90
Telegrams:

COPIES TO:

Minister for Human Rights
Eugène NINDORERA, Ministre des droits de la Personne humaine, des réformes institutionnelles, et des relations avec l'Assemblée nationale, Ministère des droits de la Personne humaine, Bujumbura, Burundi
Fax:+ 257 21 75 49

State Public Prosecutor
Gerard NGENDABANKA, Procureur de la République, Bujumbura, Burundi
Fax:+ 257 24 15 03

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 16 November 1999.