

PUBLIC

AI Index: AFR 16/026/2001

9 April 2001

Further information on UA 68/01 (AFR 16/017/2001, 19 March 2001) and follow-ups (AFR 16/019/2001, 20 March; AFR 16/020/2001, 27 March; AFR 16/022/2001, 30 March) - "Disappearance" / Fear of torture / Incommunicado detention

BURUNDI Emile MASABO

Emile Masabo has not been seen since he was rearrested. He had been thought to be held in military custody in Maramvya sector, Mutimbuzi commune, close to the capital, Bujumbura. However, it now appears that he is not held in Maramvya, or in any other nearby places of military or gendarmerie detention.

Emile Masabo was rearrested shortly after he and his brother-in-law, Paul Nsanzurwimo were supposedly released on 27 or 28 March. Both men had been held at the Cibitoke military camp in northern Burundi, and were brought down to Bujumbura by soldiers. They reportedly understood that they were being released. However, when they reached Maramvya, Emile Masabo was made to get out of the vehicle and was taken into military custody. The reason for his continued detention is not known.

Emile Masabo had initially been arrested on 16 March along with nine others, while visiting family in Bujumbura. All the detainees were severely beaten following their arrest, and were transferred to a military camp in northern Burundi. All but Emile Masabo have now been unconditionally released.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in French or in your own language (please check that postal services are operating to Burundi from your own country):

- expressing concern for the safety of Emile Masabo, who has not been seen since he was rearrested on or around 27 or 28 March;
- urging the authorities to guarantee his safety;
- calling for his whereabouts to be made public, and to for him to be granted immediate access to family, lawyers, medical care and humanitarian and human rights organizations;
- asking to be informed of the basis for the continued detention of Emile Masabo, and urging that he be immediately released, if he is not to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence;
- calling on the authorities to take urgent measures to ensure members of the armed forces respect arrest and detention procedures, and to bring to justice those found to have tortured or extrajudicially executed detainees in their custody.

APPEALS TO: (Please note, it can be difficult to get through on the numbers given below, and you may be told by the operator that they are temporarily out of order. Please be patient and keep trying):

Head of State

Son Excellence

Major Pierre BUYOYA

Président de la République

Présidence de la République

BP 1870 Bujumbura, Burundi

Telegrams: President, Bujumbura, Burundi

Faxes: + 257 22 74 90

Salutation: Monsieur le Président de la République / Dear President

Minister of National Defence
Colonel Cyrille NDAYIRUKIYE
Ministre de la Défense Nationale
Ministère de la Défense Nationale
BUJUMBURA, Burundi

Telegrams: Ministre Defense, Bujumbura, Burundi

Faxes: + 257 22 56 86

Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Dear Minister

Chief of Defence Staff
Général Major Vincent NIYUNGEKO
Chef de l'Etat-major général des Forces armées
Etat-major général des Forces armées
Ministère de la Défense nationale
BP 1870 Bujumbura, Burundi

Telegram: Chef Etat Major, Forces armées, Bujumbura, Burundi

Saluation: Monsieur le Chef de l'Etat-major/Dear Chief of Defence Staff

Fax: + 257 22 39 59 / 21 75 05

State Public Prosecutor
Monsieur Gérard NGENDABANKA
Procureur Général de la République
Bujumbura
Burundi

Telegrams: Procureur general, Bujumbura, Burundi

Fax: + 257 24 15 03

Salutation: Monsieur le Procureur général de la République / Dear State Public Prosecutor

COPIES TO:

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

Fax: + 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 21 May 2001.