

EXTERNAL

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Further information on EXTRA 164/96 (AFR 16/28/96, 25 October 1996) - Fear of safety

BURUNDIANastase UWIZERA, deacon of the Roman Catholic church

Amnesty International has received replies, some via UA participants, from officials of the *Conseil National pour la Défense de la Démocratie* (CNDD), National Council for the Defence of Democracy, responding to Amnesty International's concern that Anastase Uwizera may have been abducted by members of the armed wing of the CNDD, the *Forces pour la Défense de la Démocratie*, Forces for the Defence of Democracy. Anastase Uwizera is reported to have decided to leave his job as a deacon of the Roman Catholic church and to join the FDD after his father and four brothers were killed by members of the Burundi security forces. Further details of these alleged extrajudicial executions have not been made available to Amnesty International.

No further appeals are necessary on behalf of Anastase Uwizera. Thanks to all who sent appeals.

Another official of the CNDD, in Nairobi, responded denying knowledge of the case but promising to investigate. The official went on to state that clear instructions are given to their members :

*"not to attack innocent civilians and they [FDD members] normally respect our instructions as they know too well that our rules punish very seriously, including by death penalty, anyone found guilty of extra-judiciary homicide."*

While welcoming the CNDD's assurances that their combatants receive clear instructions not to commit human rights abuses against unarmed civilians, Amnesty International is concerned that measures taken by the CNDD or FDD against combatants who have committed human rights abuses have not been consistent with relevant provisions of humanitarian law and other international human rights standards. These include Common Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions which states that the *"passing of sentences and the carrying out of executions without previous judgment pronounced by a regularly constituted court, affording all the judicial guarantees which are recognized as indispensable by civilized peoples"* are prohibited. Amnesty International fears that FDD members may have been denied their right to fair trial and summarily killed.

Amnesty International is pursuing these concerns, but no further action by the UA Network is requested.