

PUBLIC

AI Index: AFR 16/32/99

23 November 1999

Further information on UA 255/99 (AFR 16/20/99, 28 September 1999) and follow-ups (AFR 16/22/99, 30 September 1999; AFR 16/23/99, 5 October 1999) - Torture/Fear of torture

BURUNDIDéo NZEYIMANA, director of the *Laboratoire de contrôle et analyse chimique* of the Ministry of Mines and Energy

Nestor RUBERINTWARE

Scores of other detainees in and around Bujumbura

Déo Nzeyimana was provisionally released on 12 November 1999. However, Amnesty International has had no news of Nestor Ruberintware or of up to 30 detainees who were transferred with him from Bujumbura to police custody in Kabezi, Rural Bujumbura. They are being held in appalling conditions and the organization is concerned for their safety.

Nestor Ruberintware, who was arrested on 30 August 1999, was reportedly severely beaten after his arrest at a military barracks in Bujumbura (*le bataillon para d'intervention*). He was transferred on 7 September to police custody in Kabezi with up to 30 other detainees from the gendarmerie's *Brigade spéciale de recherche* (BSR), Special investigation unit, located immediately in front of the military barracks.

Déo Nzeyimana, who was arrested on 22 September 1999, was severely beaten while in detention at the BSR. He and his wife, Georgette Mpawenimana, who was provisionally released on 5 October, had been arrested after documents with information on human rights violations were found in their possession.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/faxes/express/airmail letters in French or your own language (please check with your post office whether there are postal services to Burundi):

- expressing concern for the safety of Nestor Ruberintware, and for others in custody at Kabezi police headquarters (*la brigade de Kabezi*);
- continuing to seek assurances that the authorities will take immediate steps to protect them from ill-treatment or torture;
- calling for reports that Nestor Ruberintware and Déo Nzeyimana were tortured to be investigated, and, if the reports are substantiated, for those responsible to be brought to justice;
- calling for the accusations against Nestor Ruberintware and those held with him in Kabezi to be investigated, and for them to be released if they are not to be promptly charged with a recognizably criminal offence, for which there is evidence against them.

APPEALS TO (Please note: It can be difficult to get faxes through. Please keep trying):

Minister of Justice

Monsieur Terence 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

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 4 January 2000.