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**BURUNDI Tharcisse Havarimana**

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Amnesty International is seriously concerned for the safety of Tharcisse Havarimana, who has "disappeared" after being arrested. He was last seen at the *Police de sécurité publique* (PSP), Public Security Police, in Kigobe, a district of the capital, Bujumbura, on 19 November 1999. Since then the Director of the PSP has reportedly denied that he was ever in custody there.

Tharcisse Havarimana was arrested on 29 October 1999 in an area of Bujumbura known as the *quartier asiatique*, Asian district. He was taken into custody at the PSP.

The magistrate investigating the case is reported to have stated initially that Tharcisse Havarimana had been released, but later claimed that he had been transferred to the *Brigade spéciale de recherche* (BSR), Special investigation unit headquarters, in Bujumbura. However, officers at the BSR have reportedly denied that he is held there.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Bujumbura has recently come under frequent attack by armed opposition groups, who have deliberately and arbitrarily killed civilians. These attacks increased in August 1999: since then the security forces have arrested scores of people, and Amnesty International has received increasingly frequent reports of torture and "disappearance".

Most reported "disappearances" occur shortly after people have been arrested, often by soldiers. Many of these reports are difficult to confirm, since relatives do not have access to detainees, and the authorities refuse to say where they are held. Relatives may be told without further explanation that the detainee is no longer held or has never been held, creating fear that the detainee has been killed. In some cases, this fear is well-founded. In others, the detainee may have been transferred to a different place of detention and may subsequently be found alive in detention.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/faxes/express/airmail letters in French or your own language:**

- calling for urgent investigations into the arrest and "disappearance" of Tharcisse Havarimana, and for information on his whereabouts to be publicly disclosed;
- calling on the authorities to take immediate steps to protect him, if he is located;
- calling for those found to have committed or condoned grave human rights violations to be brought to justice.

**APPEALS TO:**

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**

Director of the Police de sécurité publique (Kigobe)

Directeur de la PSP (Kigobe)

Police de sécurité publique

Bujumbura

**Salutation: Monsieur le Directeur / Dear Sir**

**Fax: + 257 22 55 53**

**Telegrams: Directeur PSP (Kigobe), Bujumbura, Burundi**

Minister for Internal Affairs and Public Security

Col. Ascension TWAGIRAMUNGU

Ministre de l'Intérieur et de la Sécurité Publique

Ministère de l'Intérieur

Bujumbura, Burundi

**Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Dear Minister**

**Fax: + 257 22 19 82**

**Telegrams: Ministre Interieur, Bujumbura, Burundi**

**COPIES TO:**

State Public Prosecutor

Gerard NGENDABANKA,

Procureur Général de la République

Bujumbura

Burundi

**Salutation: Monsieur le Procureur Général / Dear State Public Prosecutor**

**Fax: + 257 24 15 03**

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**

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.