

BURUNDI **Salvator NDAMUHAWENIMANA, aged 14**
Juvénal NDAYISENGA, his older brother, age not known

Fourteen-year-old Salvator Ndamuhawenimana was arrested by soldiers on 15 June 2001 in the capital, Bujumbura, and his brother Juvénal Ndayisenga was arrested today when he took food to him. Juvénal Ndayisenga's whereabouts are now unknown, and both boys are at grave risk of torture.

Salvator Ndamuhawenimana was arrested by soldiers at Kanga military position, in the Kinama district of Bujumbura, who stopped him and checked his identity card. He has apparently been accused of belonging to an armed opposition group, the *Forces nationales pour la libération* (FNL), National Liberation Forces, which is very active around Bujumbura. The brothers are originally from Tenga, Mutimbuzi commune, in Rural Bujumbura (the province which surrounds the capital). The FNL has one of its main bases here, and it appears that this is why they were arrested, although at the time they were living in Kinama.

Salvator Ndamuhawenimana was taken to Ruziba military position, in Mutimbuzi commune, where he is reported to have been beaten. On 20 June, Juvénal Ndayisenga went with another member of his family to try to take food to him. The commander of the military position refused to let them give him the food, and arrested Juvénal Ndayisenga when he saw from his identity card that he was from Tenga.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Conflict has increased in many areas of Burundi since August 2000, when the government signed a peace agreement with political parties and some of the armed opposition groups involved in the country's long running civil war. The two main armed opposition groups did not sign the agreement, and do not consider themselves bound by it. Hundreds of people have been killed since August 2000, often in ambushes attributed to these two groups, the FNL and the *Conseil national pour la défense de la démocratie - Forces pour la défense de la Démocratie* (CNDD-FDD), National Council for the Defence of Democracy - Forces for the Defence of Democracy; the latter operates mainly in southern Burundi and along the border with Tanzania.

The FNL launched a sustained assault on Bujumbura on 24 February 2001, and occupied northern parts of the city for several days, withdrawing around 10 March. Since the attack there has been a significant increase in cases of torture and "disappearance" of people suspected, often arbitrarily, by government forces of links to the FNL.

Torture and ill-treatment are routine in the early stages of detention in Burundi. The problem is particularly acute in military detention, particularly as detainees are often held incommunicado in illegal places of detention, and their families and humanitarian and human rights organizations are not allowed to see them. People suspected of links with armed opposition groups are particularly vulnerable and are systematically beaten, tied in excruciating positions, deprived of food and threatened with death. Several detainees are known to have died in custody last year as a result of torture.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in French or your own language (please check that postal services are operating to Burundi from your country):

- calling on the authorities to immediately make public the whereabouts of Juvénal Ndayisenga, who has not been seen since he was arrested at Ruziba military position, Mutimbuzi commune;
- asking them to guarantee the safety and physical well-being of Juvénal Ndayisenga and his 14-year-old brother, Salvator Ndamuhawenimana, currently detained at Ruziba military position, and for them to be given immediate access to their families, medical care and to humanitarian and human rights organizations;
- asking why the brothers were arrested, and calling for them to be released if they are not to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence for which there is substantiating evidence.

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

Procureur Général de la République

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 1 August 2001.