

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AFR 16/36/96

28 November 1996

Further information on EXTRA 172/96 (AFR 16/30/96, 7 November 1996) - Fear of "Disappearance" and new concern: Extrajudicial Execution

BURUNDI Melchior Bigirimana, aged 36, engineer
 Nine other returnees including Marc Sindayigaya
 and Léonidas Ndayishimiye

Melchior Bigirimana is now known to have been summarily executed on 5 November 1996 in Bwiza district, Bujumbura. After passing through the Gatumba transit camp on 5 November as he returned from Zaire, he was taken by officials of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to report to the Chief of Zone at the Rohero district offices, Bujumbura. From there he was taken with nine others to the *Brigade spéciale de recherches* (BSR), Special Investigation Brigade, in Bujumbura. An official of the BSR is reported to have taken the 10 men to Bwiza district in Bujumbura where they were handed over to members of a Tutsi militia. All were summarily executed by strangulation on Bwiza 9th Avenue.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: If possible, send faxes or telegrams (no mail is currently getting through to Burundi) in French or in your own language; please include as many points as you can;

- expressing concern at the summary execution of Melchior Bigirimana, Marc Sindayigaya and Léonidas Ndayishimiye and seven others on 5 November 1996 by members of a Tutsi militia in Bwiza district, Bujumbura;
- expressing particular concern that they are reported to have been handed over to the militia by an member of the BSR;
- urging that the deaths of the 10 men be immediately investigated by a team including United Nations human rights monitors and representatives of the UNHCR in Bujumbura;
- calling for those responsible for these human rights violations to be brought to justice in accordance with international standards of fairness; members of the security forces who are under investigation should be suspended from their posts pending the outcome of the investigations;
- calling on the authorities to take immediate measures to protect all returnees and other unarmed civilians from human rights violations, including extrajudicial executions, "disappearances", arbitrary arrests and torture.

APPEALS TO:

Minister of Justice

Gervais Rubashamiheto

Ministre de la Justice et Garde des sceaux

Fax: 257 22 2148

Telegrams: Ministre Rubashamiheto, Bujumbura, Burundi

Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre/Dear Minister

Minister of Defence

Lieutenant Colonel Firmin Sinzoyiheba

Ministre de la Défense nationale

Fax : + 257 213 055

Telegrams: Ministre de la Défense, Bujumbura, Burundi

Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Dear Minister

Minister of Interior

Lieutenant-Colonel Epitace BAYAKANAKANDI
Ministre de l'Intérieur
Fax : + 257 222148 / 213055
Telegrams: Ministre de l'Intérieur, Bujumbura, Burundi
Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre/Dear Minister

Gendarmerie Chief of Staff
Lieutenant-Colonel Georges MUKORAKO
Chef d'Etat-Major de la Gendarmerie nationale
Fax: + 257 222148
Telegrams: Chef d'Etat-Major Mukorako, Bujumbura, Burundi
Salutation: Monsieur le Chef d'Etat-Major / Dear Chief of Staff

COPIES TO:

President
Major Pierre BUYOYA
Président de la République
Fax: 257 22 7490
Telegrams: Major Buyoya, Bujumbura, Burundi

Minister for Human Rights
Madame Christine RUHAZA
Ministre des Droits de la Personne
Fax: + 257 21602
Telegrams: Ministre Ruhaza, Bujumbura, Burundi

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 19 December 1996.