

UA 22/99

"Disappearance" / Fear for safety / Health concern

9 February

**RWANDA Ignace Kanyabugoyi, aged 50, administrative director in a soap factory**

Recent reports suggest that Ignace Kanyabugoyi, who "disappeared" in the capital Kigali in August 1998, is being detained at a psychiatric institution where it is claimed he has suffered a "psychological breakdown". The authorities have not acknowledged his presence there, however, and have denied his relatives permission to see him. In view of this and the common occurrence of ill-treatment in detention centres in Rwanda, Amnesty International is very concerned for his safety and well-being.

On 21 August 1998, Ignace Kanyabugoyi failed to reach his workplace in the centre of Kigali and later did not return to his home in the district of Nyamirambo. On 23 August, during a search of his home by armed soldiers, a gun was produced which the soldiers claimed belonged to Ignace Kanyabugoyi. His wife was subsequently taken to the *brigade* (detention centre of the gendarmerie) of Nyamirambo where she was questioned about whether her husband was a member of a political party and whether he knew how to use firearms. Although she was released after several hours she has subsequently been threatened.

Shortly after Ignace Kanyabugoyi's "disappearance", unconfirmed rumours suggested that he was being detained at the Directorate of Military Intelligence (DMI) where, initially, his vehicle was reported to be in the compound. However, attempts by his family to ascertain his whereabouts were unsuccessful until early February 1999 when they heard he was being held at the psychiatric centre at Ndera, Rubungo *commune* (district), in Rural Kigali *préfecture* (region).

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Since 1997, hundreds of people have "disappeared" in Rwanda, particularly in Kigali. This pattern has continued through 1998 and into 1999. Very few of these cases are known to have been officially investigated by the authorities.

In some cases the "disappeared" are still thought to be alive, held in unofficial detention centres or military camps with no access given to families, human rights or humanitarian organizations. Civilians are often detained in military centres. Ill-treatment is common in military and local detention centres.

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

- asking the authorities to verify reports that Ignace Kanyabugoyi is being held at Ndera psychiatric centre or, otherwise, to inform his family of his whereabouts;
- asking the authorities for an official statement on his state of health and the treatment he is receiving;
- asking for him to be allowed to receive visits from his family and human rights and humanitarian organizations;
- expressing concern at his "disappearance" on 21 August 1998 and the fact that his family has remained without news of him since then;
- asking the authorities to investigate the circumstances of his "disappearance" and to bring to justice those responsible;
- if Ignace Kanyabugoyi has been arrested, asking his family to be informed of the official charges against him.

**APPEALS TO:**

President Pasteur Bizimungu  
Office of the President  
BP 15, Kigali, Rwanda  
**Telegrams:President, Kigali, Rwanda**  
**Faxes:+ 250 84390**  
**Salutation: Monsieur le President / Dear President**

Major General Paul Kagame  
Vice-President and Minister of Defence  
Ministry of Defence  
BP 23, Kigali, Rwanda  
**Telegrams:Major General Kagame, Kigali, Rwanda**  
**Faxes:+ 250 76969 / 72431**  
**Salutation:Monsieur le Vice-President / Dear Vice-President**

Jean-de-Dieu Mucyo  
Minister of Justice  
Ministry of Justice  
BP 160, Kigali, Rwanda  
**Telegrams:Minister Justice, Kigali, Rwanda**  
**Faxes:+ 250 86590 / 87051**  
**Salutation:Dear Minister / Monsieur le Ministre**

Ezechias Rwabuhiri  
Minister of Health  
Ministry of Health  
BP 84, Kigali, Rwanda  
**Salutation:Dear Minister / Monsieur le Ministre**

**COPIES TO:**

diplomatic representatives of RWANDA accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 23 March 1999.