

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AFR 47/07/92

Distr: UA/SC

13 February 1992

Further information on UA 443/91 (AFR 47/16/91, 16 December 1991) and follow-ups AFR 47/01/92 of 2 January 1992 and AFR 47/03/92 of 10 January 1992 - Legal concern

Rwanda: Jean-Pierre Mugabe, Editor-in-Chief of Le Tribun du peuple newspaper

and (not in detention)

Adrien Rangira ) journalists of Kanguka newspaper

Obed Bazimaziki )

Antoine Mbarushimana, journalist of Le Soleil newspaper

Théoneste Muberantwari, Editor-in-Chief of Nyabarongo newspaper

Vincent Shabakaka, director of Kaberinka newspaper

Théotime Kamanayo, journalist of Kaberinka newspaper

André Kameya, director of Rwanda Rushya newspaper

Edouard Mutsinzi, journalist of Le messenger (Intumwa) newspaper

Amnesty International has just learned that Jean-Pierre Mugabe, Editor-in-Chief of Tribun du peuple newspaper, was sentenced on 12 February 1992 to four years' imprisonment by the Tribunal de première instance, High Court, in Kigali.

He was arrested on 31 December 1991, released on 1 January 1992 and rearrested and interrogated the next day. His trial took place on 3 February 1992. He was found guilty of publishing articles and cartoons which insulted the Head of State and for failing to submit the offending issue of the newspaper to the authorities. He is being held at Kigali central prison and appears to be a prisoner of conscience.

Amnesty International has no new information regarding the other nine journalists mentioned above and appeals on their behalf may continue as directed in the follow-up of 10 January 1992 (AFR 47/03/92).

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters in French if possible**

- expressing concern at the conviction of journalist Jean-Pierre Mugabe on 12 February 1992 and his being sentenced to four years' imprisonment;

- expressing concern that he appears to be a prisoner of conscience convicted because of articles and cartoons he had published in the Tribun du peuple;

- expressing concern that he appears to be being punished for exercising his basic human right to freedom of expression, guaranteed by the International

Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Rwanda is a party;

- appealing for an urgent review of his case so that, if he is a prisoner of conscience who has not advocated violence, he can be released immediately.

Page 2 of 3FU 443/91

**APPEALS TO:**

1) Prime Minister and Minister of Justice:

Monsieur Sylvestre NZANZIMANA  
Premier Ministre et Ministre de la Justice  
Ministère de la Justice  
BP 160, Kigali, République rwandaise  
**Telegrams: Ministre Justice, Kigali, Rwanda**  
**Telexes: 22502**  
**Faxes: + 250 74583**

**Monsieur le Premier Ministre /  
Dear Prime Minister**

2) Minister of Defence and Security:

Le Colonel Augustin NDINDILYIMANA  
Ministre à la Présidence pour  
la Défense et la Sécurité  
BP 15, Kigali, République rwandaise  
**Telegrams: Ministre Defense et Securite, Kigali, Rwanda**  
**Telexes: 22517**  
**Faxes: + 250 74583**

**Monsieur le Ministre /  
Dear Minister**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

Minister of Foreign Affairs:

Monsieur le Docteur Casimir BIZIMUNGU  
Ministre des Affaires étrangères  
et de la coopération  
Ministère des Affaires étrangères  
BP 179, Kigali, République Rwandaise  
**Faxes: +250 72902 or +250 72904**

Secretary General of the National security service:

Monsieur Donat HAKIZIMANA  
Secrétaire général  
Service central de renseignements (SCR)  
BP 125, Kigali, République rwandaise

and the following newspapers:

Monsieur le Rédacteur-en-Chef  
Kinyamateka  
BP 761, Kigali  
République rwandaise

Monsieur le Rédacteur-en-Chef  
Isibo, Bureau central  
BP 2258, Kigali  
République rwandaise

Monsieur le Rédacteur-en-Chef  
La Relève  
Office rwandaise d'information  
BP 83, Kigali, République rwandaise

Monsieur le Rédacteur-en-Chef  
Le Tribun du Peuple  
BP 2314, Kigali  
République rwandaise

and to diplomatic representatives of Rwanda in your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 26 March 1992.