

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 152/93 Fear of extrajudicial execution

13 May 1993

RWANDA: Ignace RUHATANA, human rights activist and economist  
Sylvestre KAMALI, President of the opposition Mouvement  
Démocratique Républicain (MDR), Democratic Republican Party

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Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of Ignace Ruhatana and Sylvestre Kamali who have been subjected to attacks and death threats in recent weeks. Those responsible are reported to be members of the security forces and pro-government vigilante groups from the majority Hutu ethnic group, targeting people suspected or known to support equal rights for Rwanda's minority Tutsi ethnic group.

On the night of 3 May 1993 in the capital, Kigali, the house of Ignace Ruhatana, a leading member of the human rights organization, Association pour la promotion de l'union par la justice sociale, which is locally known as "KANYARWANDA", and editor-in-chief of the organization's periodical, was attacked by unidentified men thought to be members of the security forces. They were armed with grenades and sharp instruments and appeared to have been ordered to confiscate documents belonging to "KANYARWANDA" which were kept at Ignace Ruhatana's house. They took away documents belonging to "KANYARWANDA", office equipment and some of Ignace Ruhatana's personal property. Ignace Ruhatana was wounded in the right hand when one of the assailants tried to stab him and it is also reported that the attackers tried to rape his daughters.

The attack happened several weeks after the publication of a communique by several human rights associations, including "KANYARWANDA", expressing doubts about the Rwandese army's claims that people buried in mass graves, which were discovered in March 1993 in the Byumba prefecture's Rwamagana sub-prefecture, were massacred by rebels belonging to the Front Patriotique Rwandais (FPR), Rwandese Patriotic Front. Ignace Ruhatana had been arrested in October 1990 and accused of supporting FPR rebels but he was acquitted of all charges by the State Security Court in January 1991.

There have been similar attacks against another government opponent, Sylvestre Kamali, Gisenyi prefecture's president of an opposition party known as the Mouvement Démocratique Républicain (MDR), Democratic Republican Party. On the night of 21 February 1993 a night watchman guarding Sylvestre Kamali's house was beaten by soldiers and interrogated about his political opinions. Previously, at the end of January 1993, soldiers armed with grenades and dressed in the uniform usually worn by members of the youth wing of President Juvénal Habyarimana's Mouvement républicain national pour la démocratie et le développement (MRND), the former ruling party when Rwanda was a one-party state, twice broke into Sylvestre Kamali's house in Kigali. However, the house was unoccupied on each occasion. It is reported that there have been other attempts on Sylvestre Kamali's life.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In October 1990 rebels belonging to the FPR attacked Rwanda from neighbouring Uganda. Most

FPR fighters are from the Tutsi ethnic group. Following the attack, some 7,000 people were arrested, most of them Tutsi or people critical of the policies of the government. Virtually all were subjected to severe beatings and some were killed or died: most were released uncharged six months later. Since the rebel attack about 2,000 people, most of them Tutsi regarded as possible supporters of the FPR, and Hutu members of opposition parties, have been killed by Hutu gangs consisting of supporters of the MRND and members of the security forces. The authorities have so far not brought anyone responsible for the killings to justice. Fighting between the government and rebel forces has been continuing in some parts of northern Rwanda, and negotiated cease-fires have regularly broken down.

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Since the beginning of January 1993, hundreds of unarmed civilians, mainly from the Tutsi ethnic group, have been killed in attacks carried out by vigilante groups of MRND or supporters of Coalition pour le défense de la République (CDR), an allied political party. The authorities acknowledge that nearly 100 have been killed. These attacks are reminiscent of attacks in January and February 1991 when hundreds of members of the Tutsi Bagogwe clan in northeast Rwanda were reportedly killed. Similar killings occurred on a smaller scale in several districts in 1992.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of Ignace Ruhatana and Sylvestre Kamali who reportedly have been subjected to attacks and death threats in recent weeks;
- expressing concern that these attacks and death threats appear to have been carried out by members of the security forces and supporters of President Juvénal Habyarimana;
- asking the authorities to set up an independent and impartial inquiry into these reports of attacks on Ignace Ruhatana and Sylvestre Kamali with a view to bringing those responsible to justice;
- requesting the authorities to provide protection for those being attacked or threatened and make public instructions that those found responsible will to be brought to justice.

**APPEALS TO**

1. President:

Son Excellence  
Monsieur le Général-Major  
Président HABYARIMANA Juvénal  
Président de la République  
Présidence de la République  
BP 15, Kigali, République rwandaise  
**Telegrams: President Habyarimana, Kigali, Rwanda**  
**Telexes: 22517**  
**Faxes: + 250 74583**

**Salutation: Monsieur le Président de la République /  
Dear President**

2. Prime Minister:

Monsieur NSENGIYAREMYE Dismas  
Premier Ministre  
Présidence de la République  
BP 15, Kigali, République rwandaise  
**Telegrams: Premier Ministre, Kigali, Rwanda**  
**Telexes: 22502**  
**Faxes: + 250 72902, + 250 72904**

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

3. Minister of Defence:

Monsieur GASANA James  
Ministre à la Présidence pour  
la Défense et la Sécurité  
BP 15, Kigali, République rwandaise  
**Telegrams: Ministre Defense, Kigali, Rwanda**  
**Telexes: 22517**  
**Faxes: + 250 74583**

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

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

Minister of Foreign Affairs:  
Monsieur NGULINZIRA Boniface  
Ministre des Affaires étrangères et de la  
Coopération  
Ministère des Affaires étrangères  
BP 179, Kigali  
République rwandaise

and the following newspapers:

Monsieur Vincent Rwabukwisi  
Rédacteur-en-Chef  
Journal Kanguka  
BP 2119, Kigali, Rwanda

Chief of Staff:

Chef d'Etat - major des forces armées  
Deogratias NSABIMANA  
BP 15, Kigali, République rwandaise  
**Faxes: + 250 74583**

Abbé André SIBOMANA  
Rédacteur-en-Chef  
Journal Kinyamateka  
BP 761, Kigali, Rwanda

and 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 24 June 1993.