

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AFR 47/11/96

UA 180/96 "Disappearance" / Fear of extrajudicial execution 18 July 1996

**RWANDA** Elie DUSABUMUREMYI, *bourgmestre* (mayor) of Nyabikenke, prefecture of Gitarama, teacher

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Amnesty International is gravely concerned for the safety of Elie Dusabumuremyi, the *bourgmestre* of Nyabikenke *commune* (district), in the prefecture of Gitarama, who was reportedly abducted on the evening of 11 July 1996 and has not been seen since.

The abduction took place as Elie Dusabumuremyi was returning from a meeting with the sub-prefect of Kiyuma and local security officials. People in the area at the time heard him calling for help and later found blood at the place from which they had heard his voice. Local residents who attempted to rush to the scene were stopped by gunfire. They reported seeing two lorries carrying soldiers whom they believe were responsible for the shooting.

Local authorities are reported to be carrying out investigations into the abduction. However independent sources in Rwanda suspect that government forces may have been involved in the "disappearance" because, unlike numerous similar incidents in which government officials and others have been killed or "disappeared", it has allegedly not been reported by state-controlled radio.

It is reported that Elie Dusabumuremyi, a member of the majority Hutu ethnic group, was on bad terms with some members of the Tutsi ethnic group living in the area. The Tutsi had reportedly accused him of not providing them with sufficient protection after they had received threats of attacks. However, shortly before his "disappearance", he had been engaged in discussions with the Tutsi displaced community to find ways of ensuring their protection.

Elie Dusabumuremyi is in his 30s and recently married. His wife gave birth to their first child on 6 July, less than one week before Elie Dusabumuremyi's "disappearance". Both are teachers by profession. Elie Dusabumuremyi has been *bourgmestre* of Nyabikenke *commune* since October 1995.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Amnesty International has documented a pattern of killings of local government officials in various parts of Rwanda. These killings appear to have increased in the first half of 1996. For example on 2 July, in Rushashi *commune*, northwest of the capital Kigali, as many as 18 people were killed, including several local officials such as the *bourgmestre* of Rushashi, Vincent Munyandamutsa, the assistant prosecutor, Floribert Habinshuti, and the director of the local secondary school at Rwankuba, Laurent Bwanaceye.

Such killings are widely blamed by the Rwandese authorities on unidentified armed men or on infiltrators from Zaire, allegedly members of the army of the former Hutu-dominated Rwandese government or of the *interahamwe* militia who played a leading part in the 1994 genocide, and who continue to carry out deliberate and arbitrary killings of unarmed civilians.

However, in many cases of killings of local officials, there is some doubt as to the identity of the perpetrators. Some believe that the attacks are indeed carried out by Hutu armed groups who may be targeting these local officials because they are collaborating with the government established by the Tutsi-dominated Rwandese Patriotic Front in 1994. However, others believe

that some of these killings are carried out or ordered by Rwandese government or military authorities. The majority of victims among local officials are Hutu.

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

- calling on the authorities to urgently establish and make public the whereabouts of Elie Dusabumuremyi following his abduction on 11 July 1996, and calling for immediate steps to guarantee his physical safety;
- asking for any available information on the reason for his abduction;
- calling for an independent investigation into his abduction and "disappearance", for the results to be made public and for those found responsible to be brought to justice;
- asking the Rwandese authorities to carry out independent investigations into reports of killings and "disappearances" over recent months and to ensure that those responsible are brought to justice.

**APPEALS TO:**

Président Pasteur Bizimungu  
Présidence de la République  
BP 15, Kigali, Rwanda

**FAXES: +250 83975; 84769**

**Telexes: 22502**

**Telegrams: President Bizimungu, Kigali, Rwanda**

**Salutation: Monsieur le Président / Dear President**

Général Major Paul Kagame  
Vice-Président de la République  
et Ministre de la Défense  
Présidence de la République  
BP 15  
Kigali  
Rwanda

**Fax: 250 83980; 84769; 72431**

**Telegrams: Vice-Président Kagame, Kigali, Rwanda**

**Salutation: Monsieur le Vice-Président/Dear Vice-President**

Colonel Alexis KANYARENGWE  
Vice-Premier Ministre et Ministre de l'Intérieur  
BP 446  
Kigali  
Rwanda

**Fax: 250 84373; 85714**

**Telegrams: Ministre de l'Intérieur, Kigali, Rwanda**

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

Madame Marthe MUKAMURENZI  
Ministre de la Justice  
Ministère de la Justice  
BP 160  
Kigali  
Rwanda

**Fax: 250 86509**

**Telegrams: Ministre de la Justice, Kigali, Rwanda**

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

**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 6 September 1996.