

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AFR 47/16/97

16 May 1997

Further information on UA 199/96 (AFR 47/16/96, 8 August 1996) and follow-ups (AFR 47/19/96, 15 August; AFR 47/21/96, 13 September; AFR 47/15/97, 30 April 1997) - Fear for safety / Fear of ill-treatment / Fear of arbitrary arrest / Possible extrajudicial execution and new concern: Possible prisoner of conscience

RWANDAAmiel Nkuriza, journalist

---

Amiel Nkuriza, the editor-in-chief of the newspaper *Le Partisan* and director of the newspaper *Intego*, was arrested on the morning of 13 May 1997 at the offices of the national printing press in the Rwandese capital, Kigali. He was arrested by soldiers who led him to the public prosecutor's office. From there he was taken to the *brigade* at Muhima before being transferred to the newly-opened civilian prison at Kimironko, in Kigali, where he is still detained. There are no reports that he has been ill-treated.

Sources in Kigali indicate that the last two issues of *Le Partisan* had been seized at the national printing press, which is under government control. At the time of his arrest, Amiel Nkuriza was reportedly accused of inciting ethnic tension through the newspaper, but no formal charges are known to have been made.

Amnesty International is concerned that Amiel Nkuriza may have been arrested because of the perception of his newspaper as critical of the current government and that he may be a prisoner of conscience. He has been arrested and subsequently released on at least three previous occasions, in June 1996, August 1996 and in February 1997. He has also been threatened by military officials.

Conditions in Rwandese prisons are extremely poor and in some cases life-threatening due to extreme overcrowding.

**Please continue action on the killing of journalist Appolos Hakizimana, as outlined in previous update and in addition please send telegrams/faxes/express/airmail letters in French/English or in your own language:**

- seeking assurances that Amiel Nkuriza will be treated humanely, that his physical safety will be guaranteed and that he is given access to his family, medical assistance and legal counsel at all times;
- calling for Amiel Nkuriza to be promptly charged with a recognizable criminal offence or unconditionally released;
- seeking assurances that Amiel Nkuriza has not been arrested solely for the non-violent expression of his opinions.

**APPEALS TO:**

Prime Minister

Monsieur Pierre-Célestin RWIGEMA

Premier Ministre

Présidence de la Républiquur

BP 15, Kigali, Rwanda

**Faxes: +250 83714**

**Telegrams: Premier Ministre, Kigali, Rwanda**

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

Minister of Information

Jean Népomuscène NAYINZIRA

Ministre de l'Information et Porte-parole du gouvernement

Ministère de l'Information

BP 1532, Kigali, Rwanda

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

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

Director of Rwandese Information Office

Major Wilson RUTAYISIRE

Directeur, Office rwandais de l'Information (ORINFOR)

Kigali, Rwanda

**Fax: +250 76185**

**Telegrams: Directeur, ORINFOR, Kigali, Rwanda**

**Salutation: Monsieur le Directeur / Dear Director**

Minister of Interior

Cheikh Abdul KARIM HARELIMAN

Ministre de l'Intérieur

BP 446, Kigali, Rwanda

**Faxes: +250 84373; 83374**

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

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

**COPIES TO:**

Vice-President/Minister of Defence

Général Major Paul Kagame

Vice-Président de la République et Ministre de la Défense

Présidence de la République, BP 15, Kigali, Rwanda

**Fax: +250 72431; 76969**

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 11 June 1997.