

PUBLIC

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"Disappearance"

15 May 1998

RWANDA Emmanuel Munyemanzi, journalist

Emmanuel Munyemanzi, a journalist who worked as head of production for Rwanda's national television station, "disappeared" in the capital Kigali on 5 May 1998. He went to work as usual in the morning and never returned. His fate remains unknown.

Shortly before his "disappearance", Emmanuel Munyemanzi had been suspended from his duties at the national television station and transferred to another post at the *Office rwandais d'information* (ORINFOR), Rwandese Information Office. His suspension was reportedly linked to a dispute with ORINFOR's director. The head of the national television station has reportedly also been suspended.

Emmanuel Munyemanzi is married with five children. His wife has been detained in Kigali central prison since 1994 on accusations of participation in the 1994 genocide.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The number of "disappearances" in Rwanda has increased significantly since 1997. In some cases, evidence points to the involvement of members of the security forces; in others, the identity of those responsible is not known.

Some of the "disappeared" individuals are believed to have been killed, but in most cases their bodies are not found, nor are their families officially notified of their death. In other cases, the "disappeared" are believed to be held in secret detention centres, including military detention centres to which the authorities almost always deny access to the prisoner's relatives and to humanitarian and human rights organizations. In a minority of cases, the "disappeared" are released after illegal detention.

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

- expressing deep concern at reports of the "disappearance" on 5 May 1998 of Emmanuel Munyemanzi;
- asking for an immediate investigation into his "disappearance", the results of which should be communicated to his family and made public;
- expressing concern about the recent broader pattern of "disappearances" in Rwanda and appealing to the government to investigate all such cases and bring those responsible to justice, and take steps to prevent further "disappearances".

APPEALS TO:

Major Wilson Rutayisire

Directeur, Office rwandais de l'information (ORINFOR)

Kigali, Rwanda

Telegrams: Major Rutayisire, Kigali, Rwanda

Fax: + 250 76185

Salutation: Monsieur le Directeur / Dear Major Rutayisire

Jean-Népomuscène Nayinzira

Ministre de l'Information

Ministère de l'Information

BP 1532, Kigali, Rwanda

Telegrams: Ministre Nayinzira, Kigali, Rwanda
Fax: + 250 84604
Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Dear Minister

Dr Faustin Ntezilyayo
Ministre de la Justice
Ministère de la Justice
BP 160, Kigali, Rwanda

Telegrams: Ministre Ntezilyayo, Kigali, Rwanda
Fax: + 250 86509
Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

Protais Musoni
Préfet de Kigali Ville
Préfecture de Kigali Ville
Kigali, Rwanda

Salutation: Monsieur le Préfet / Dear Sir

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 26 June 1998.