

UA 315/99

"Di.**RWANDA** Edouard Mpabuka, peasant, aged 28

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There are fears for the safety of Edouard Mpabuka, who was taken from a detention centre by soldiers on 8 November 1999 and whose whereabouts are now unknown.

Edouard Mpabuka was detained in the *cachot communal* (commune detention centre) of Giciye, in the northwestern *préfecture* of Gisenyi. On the evening of 8 November, soldiers reportedly took him away from the *cachot* in a white truck. There are unconfirmed reports that he was killed at Gitebe, less than one kilometre away.

The local authorities have reportedly confirmed that he is no longer detained at the *cachot* in Giciye but have not revealed his whereabouts.

He had previously been released from the *brigade* (gendarmerie detention centre) at Kabaya, in Gisenyi, on 15 October, but was re-arrested soon afterwards and detained in Giciye *cachot*.

Edouard Mpabuka comes from Gihira *cellule*, Gihira *secteur*, Giciye *commune*, in Gisenyi.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Since 1997 hundreds of people have "disappeared" in Rwanda, many in the northwestern *préfectures* of Gisenyi and Ruhengeri. The largest number of "disappearances" occurred in 1997 and 1998, during a period of armed conflict between the Rwandese security forces and armed opposition groups believed to include members of the former Rwandese army who took part in the genocide in 1994.

"Disappearances" have continued in 1999, albeit on a lesser scale. Most people who "disappear" are presumed dead, and their families rarely find the bodies. However, some of those who "disappear" are thought to be held in unofficial or inaccessible detention centres, such as military camps. The practice of detaining civilians in military camps has continued throughout 1999, especially in the northwest of Rwanda. A number of people have "disappeared" after being transferred from one detention centre to another.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of Edouard Mpabuka, who was reportedly taken by soldiers from the *cachot communal* of Giciye to an unknown destination on 8 November 1999;
- appealing to the authorities to establish his whereabouts and whether he is alive as a matter of urgency, and to inform his family;
- asking for assurances that his safety be guaranteed, if he is alive;
- asking for an immediate investigation into his "disappearance" and possible death, and calling for those found responsible to be brought to justice.

**APPEALS TO:**

Sheikh Abdul Karim HARELIMANA  
Ministre de la Sécurité intérieure  
Ministère de la Sécurité intérieure

BP 446, Kigali, Rwanda

**Telegrams: Minister Interior, Kigali, Rwanda**

**Fax: + 250 82071**

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

Capitaine Jean-Baptiste MUHIRWA

Préfet de Gisenyi

Préfecture de Gisenyi

BP 173, Gisenyi, Rwanda

**Fax: + 250 61312**

**Salutation: Monsieur le Préfet / Dear Sir**

Jean de Dieu MUCYO

Ministre de la Justice

Ministère de la Justice

BP 160, Kigali, Rwanda

**Telegrams: Minister Justice, Kigali, Rwanda**

**Fax: + 250 86509**

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

General Major Paul KAGAME

Vice-Président et Ministre de la Défense

Ministère de la Défense

BP 23, Kigali, Rwanda

**Telegrams: Vice-President, Kigali, Rwanda**

**Fax: + 250 72431 / 76969**

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

**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 18 January 2000.