

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AFR 47/25/95

11 December 1995

Further information on UA 268/95 (AFR 47/23/95, 30 November 1995) - Fear for safety and new concern: "Disappearance"

RWANDA Jean RUBADUKA, magistrate and human rights activist  
Abbé André SIBOMANA, acting bishop and human rights activist

new name: Jean-Baptiste BARAMBIRWA, human rights activist

Jean-Baptiste Barambirwa, president of the leading collective of human rights organizations in Rwanda, "disappeared" during the night of 10/11 December 1995. Amnesty International fears for his safety.

His "disappearance" occurred immediately after a conference on human rights held in the capital Kigali on the occasion of Human Rights Week in Rwanda. Jean-Baptiste Barambirwa had attended the conference and in his closing speech, had spoken openly about the present human rights situation in Rwanda. He described Rwanda as a country where the rule of law had never existed and denounced the absence of justice. He also referred to ongoing human rights violations, particularly the situation in the prisons, where around 60,000 people - many of them arbitrarily arrested - are detained in inhuman conditions. He also made reference to torture, "disappearances" and detentions in secret locations.

Jean-Baptiste Barambirwa left the conference alone at around 7.30pm. He failed to return home that night and there was still no news of him the following afternoon.

In October 1995, Jean-Baptiste Barambirwa was elected President of the *Collectif des Ligues et Associations de Défense des Droits de l'Homme (CLADHO)*, Collective of human rights leagues and associations (Jean Rubaduka is CLADHO's former President). CLADHO has written to the head of the Gendarmerie in Rwanda asking for news of Jean-Baptiste Barambirwa's whereabouts.

**PLEASE CONTINUE ACTION ON BEHALF OF JEAN RUBADUKA AND ABBÉ SIBOMENA AS RECOMMENDED IN ORIGINAL ACTION, AND IN ADDITION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in French, English or your own language:**

- expressing concern for the safety of Jean-Baptiste Barambirwa after his "disappearance" on the evening of 10 December
- calling for an immediate investigation to establish his whereabouts, and for this information to be made public;
- repeating your calls on the authorities to put an end to the pattern of intimidation of human rights activists in Rwanda and asking them to honour their public declaration to protect human rights by ensuring that such activists can operate freely, without fear for their lives.

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

**Faxes: +25083980; 84769; 72431**

**Telexes: 22502**

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

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

Colonel Alexis Kanyarengwe  
Vice-Premier Ministre et Ministre de l'Intérieur  
Ministère de l'Intérieur  
BP 446, Kigali, Rwanda

**Faxes: +250 85714**

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

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

Mme Marthe Mukamurenzi  
Ministre de la Justice  
Ministère de la Justice  
BP 160

Kigali, Rwanda

**Faxes: +250 86509**

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

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

*Note: You may experience difficulty in getting through to Rwanda by fax, although this has improved in recent weeks. It may still be easier via the international operator.*

**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 28 January 1996.