

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AFR 56/02/95

8 August 1995

Further information (1) on UA 154/95 (AFR 56/01/95, 30 June 1995) - Refoulement / Fear of Extrajudicial Executions

TANZANIA/BURUNDI/RWANDA

Amnesty International has received replies from representatives of the Tanzanian government (in particular the chargé d'affaires at the Tanzanian embassy in the USA) in response to appeals sent as a result of the Urgent Action on the plight of Burundi and Rwandese refugees and asylum-seekers in Tanzania.

These replies stress the burden which the massive number of refugees from Burundi and Rwanda is placing on the Tanzanian population and reminds Amnesty International that Tanzania has been providing shelter to these refugees at a very high cost to its own population's welfare and security. They state that Tanzania was forced to close its borders with Burundi because of armed incursions into Tanzania by Burundi soldiers purportedly in pursuit of armed Burundi militia. They refer to Tanzania's obligation to protect the lives of its own citizens as well as those of refugees. They refute Amnesty International's allegations that Tanzanian soldiers have been responsible for human rights abuses against refugees and describe these allegations as "unfounded, pure fabrications and baseless".

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please continue sending telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters, in English or in your own language, to the Tanzanian authorities below, making the points outlined in Urgent Action 154/95. You may also wish to incorporate some of the points below.

IF YOU HAVE RECEIVED A RESPONSE from the authorities in Tanzania or from the Tanzanian embassy in your own country, as outlined above, please reply:

- thanking them for their response;
- expressing appreciation for the role that Tanzania has played in hosting hundreds of thousands of refugees from Rwanda and Burundi and recognizing the strain that the refugees' presence places upon the local population and the Tanzanian authorities;
- mentioning that Amnesty International is aware of reports that Burundi soldiers have carried out raids on Tanzanian territory but that this does not justify the forcible return of refugees who are at real risk of human rights violations from the same soldiers in Burundi;
- asking what measures have been taken to ensure that refugees from Rwanda and Burundi are not returned against their will;
- pointing out that reports of ill-treatment of asylum-seekers have come from credible and impartial sources, and asking the Tanzanian government to carry out and impartial investigations into allegations of ill-treatment of refugees by Tanzanian soldiers.

APPEALS TO:

1) His Excellency Ali Hassan Mwinyi

Office of the President

State House

PO Box 9120

Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Telegrams: President Mwinyi, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Telexes: 41192

Faxes: +255 51 469

Salutation: Your Excellency

2) Head of the Tanzanian People's Defence Forces

Lt-Gen Kiwelu

Ministry of Defence

PO Box 8544

Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Telegrams: Minister of Defence, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Salutation: Dear Minister

3) Minister for Home Affairs

Mr Ernest Nyanda

Ministry for Home Affairs

PO Box 9223

Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Telegrams: Minister for Home Affairs, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Telexes: 41231

Salutation: Dear Minister

4) Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Joseph Rwegasira

Ministry for Foreign Affairs

PO Box 9000

Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Telegrams: Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Telexes: 41086

Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Son Excellence le Président Sylvestre Ntibantunganya

Président de la République

Présidence de la République

BP 1870 Bujumbura, République du Burundi

Faxes: +257 22 6424 / 23 3059

Prime Minister

Monsieur Antoine Nduwayo

Premier Ministre

Présidence de la République

BP 2800 Bujumbura, République du Burundi

and to diplomatic representatives of Tanzania accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 19 September 1995.