

UA 129/98 Possible "disappearance"/ Fear of return to  
Rwanda / Fear of extrajudicial execution

23 April 1998

**UGANDA Emmanuel Ngomiraronka, aged 33, children's rights worker and lawyer  
Nathanael Nsengiyumva, former magistrate in Rwanda**

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Amnesty International is deeply concerned for the safety of Emmanuel Ngomiraronka and Nathanael Nsengiyumva - both Rwandese nationals - who may have "disappeared" after being arrested in Kampala on 17 April 1998 and in February respectively. It is feared they may be at risk of being extrajudicially executed or subjected to other human rights violations in Uganda and, particularly in Rwanda, if forced to return there.

Emmanuel Ngomiraronka is at risk of being imminently deported to Rwanda, or may already have been, on allegations of theft and fraud though no extradition hearing has taken place.

Emmanuel Ngomiraronka was first arrested on 7 February, while visiting Uganda, on charges of theft, and held at the Central Police Station (CPS) in Kampala.

These charges were subsequently dropped on 17 April but as he walked free from the court he was re-arrested by Ugandan Interpol officers and taken to Wandegaya police station in Kampala from whence he was transferred to Jinja Road Police Station. There, he appears to have been handed over to Rwandese security officials. His current whereabouts are unknown.

It has been reported that, on 12 March, during Emmanuel Ngomiraronka's initial period of arrest, he was removed from the CPS by plain-clothed Rwandese nationals, in the company of a Ugandan Interpol officer, to a private house.

Here he was reportedly beaten, threatened and questioned about who knew of his arrest and the reasons for his involvement in the defence of persons accused of genocide in Rwanda. This incident further heightens concern for his safety.

Emmanuel Ngomiraronka, whose parents and several other relatives were killed in Rwanda in 1994, had been active in the defence of children's rights in Rwanda.

He had been employed by a number of international non-governmental organizations working with children orphaned during the genocide. In early 1997 he also worked as a lawyer providing defence counsel to persons accused of genocide, in the context of a project set up by the non-governmental organization *Avocats sans frontières*, Lawyers without Borders.

Nathanael Nsengiyumva was last seen being taken, by men dressed in military uniform, to Mbuya military barracks in Kampala -- though the Ugandan authorities deny this. Relatives who have attempted to visit him there are reported to have been told that "only Kagame [the Vice-President and Minister of Defence of Rwanda] can release him". A recognized refugee, he was due to be interviewed for resettlement to another country on the day he was arrested.

#### **BACKGROUND**

Since 1996, several Rwandese nationals have been arrested or abducted in Uganda and returned to Rwanda where they have been subjected to human rights violations, including arbitrary arrest and extrajudicial execution.

Several lawyers working for the defence of people accused of participating in the genocide in Rwanda have also been subjected to human rights violations.

In January 1997, Innocent Murengezi, a lawyer who had participated in some

of the first genocide trials in Rwanda, "disappeared" and is presumed dead. Another lawyer, André Bimenyimana, who had also defended people accused of participation in the genocide, was arrested in September 1997 and is currently in prison, himself accused of participation in the genocide.

The overall human rights situation in Rwanda continues to be of grave concern. There are currently more than 130,000 people detained in life-threatening conditions, most without trial and many without charge. "Disappearances" have increased significantly since 1997, including in the capital Kigali. Thousands of unarmed civilians have been deliberately killed by members of the security forces or by armed opposition groups.

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

- expressing concern at the detention and "disappearance" of Emmanuel Ngomiraronka on 17 April 1998 and of Nathanael Nsengiyumva in February 1998;
- urging that they be given access to their families and lawyers;
- urging that neither of them be handed over to Rwanda where they are at risk of being subjected to human rights violations;
- appealing that they be released if they are not to be charged with a recognisably criminal offence and brought promptly to trial;
- appealing for their safety to be guaranteed.

**APPEALS TO:**

Mr Eriya Kategaya  
 First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs  
 Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
 PO Box 7048  
 Kampala  
 Uganda

**Telegrams: Prime Minister, Kampala, Uganda**  
**Faxes: + 256 41 258722/232874**  
**Salutation: Dear Sir**

Mr Bert Katurebe  
 Minister of Justice and Attorney General  
 Ministry of Justice  
 Po Box 7183  
 Kampala  
 Uganda

**Telegrams: Minister Justice, Kampala, Uganda**  
**Salutation: Dear Sir**

Major Tom Butime  
 Minister for Internal Affairs  
 Ministry of Internal Affairs  
 PO Box 7191  
 Kampala  
 Uganda

**Telegrams: Minister Internal Affairs, Kampala, Uganda**  
**Faxes: + 256 41 231188**  
**Salutation: Dear Sir**

**COPIES TO:** diplomatic representatives of Uganda accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 5 June 1998.