

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AFR 01/02/96

UA 49/96 Attempted extrajudicial execution / Fear for safety 27 February 1996

**KENYA / RWANDA Seth Sendashonga, former Rwandese Minister of Interior
Simeon Nsengiyumva, his nephew**

On 26 February 1996, Seth Sendashonga, a former Minister of the Interior in the current Rwandese Government, survived an assassination attempt in Nairobi, Kenya. His nephew, Simeon Nsengiyumva, who was with him at the time, was gravely injured and is in a critical condition after being shot four times in the stomach.

The attack took place after Seth Sendashonga was lured to an appointment by a Rwandese man, known to him as a member of the Rwandese Patriotic Army (RPA), who claimed that he wanted to give Sendashonga a document. At the appointment, they met two other Rwandese men, who were unknown to Sendashonga. The men opened fire when Sendashonga refused to let them enter his car. He was shot in his right shoulder, but escaped death by hiding under his car.

Seth Sendashonga, a member of the Rwandese Patriotic Front (RPF), was Minister of Interior in Rwanda until he resigned on 28 August 1995, along with the former Prime Minister Faustin Twagiramungu; three other government ministers were dismissed the following day. One of the main reasons for his resignation was the lack of government action to address the state of insecurity in Rwanda and continuing human rights violations by the RPA. Since his resignation, Seth Sendashonga has continued to denounce human rights violations in Rwanda which have occurred since the current government took power in July 1994.

The attempt on his life is thought to be directly connected to his public denunciation of these human rights abuses. Amnesty International remains deeply concerned for his safety and also fears that other Rwandese nationals currently living in Kenya and elsewhere who have criticized the present Rwandese Government or who are perceived as opponents may also be at risk. Attacks on other Rwandese nationals in Kenya have been reported in recent months.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Kenya is host to several thousand Rwandese refugees, many of whom fled their country in the immediate aftermath of the genocide in Rwanda which claimed as many as one million lives between April and July 1994. During 1995, several other Rwandese who felt threatened under the current government of Rwanda also chose to seek asylum in Kenya. These include prominent critics of the Rwandese Government, such as Seth Sendashonga and other former government and security officials, who have fled Rwanda for their own security and that of their families.

Rwandese and other refugees in Kenya have also been victims of human rights abuses by the Kenyan authorities, including arbitrary arrest, ill-treatment and torture (UA 270/95, AFR 32/24/95, 6 December 1995). Amnesty International has been urging the Kenyan authorities to continue to make efforts to investigate the role of Rwandese in Kenya who may have participated in crimes against humanity in Rwanda, in order to bring them to justice. However, they should ensure that Rwandese refugees are not arbitrarily arrested.

Within Rwanda, there has been a constant pattern of harassment and human rights violations against human rights activists and individuals who speak out against abuses by the RPA. Critics of the government live in a permanent state of

fear (See UA 268/95, AFR 47/23/95, 30 November 1995 and updates). Individuals within the government and the judiciary have also been threatened. Some, such as Seth Sendashonga, have had to leave their jobs and their country for fear of their lives.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters:

Appeals to Kenya (in English or your own language)

- calling for an immediate and impartial investigation into the assassination attempt on Seth Sendashonga and his nephew Simeon Nsengiyumva, for the results to be made public and for those responsible to be brought to justice;
- urging the Kenyan authorities to ensure the protection of Seth Sendashonga while he is living in Kenya, as well as the protection of other Rwandese who may be at risk for the non-violent expression of their beliefs or political opinions.

Appeals to Rwanda (in English, French or your own language)

- expressing deep concern at the attempted extrajudicial execution of Seth Sendashonga in Nairobi on 26 February and the serious injuries caused to his nephew Simeon Nsengiyumva;
- condemning this act of violence which appears to have been motivated by Seth Sendashonga's public statements about human rights violations in Rwanda;
- appealing to the Rwandese Government to cooperate fully with the Kenyan authorities in launching an immediate, impartial investigation into the attack and ensuring that those responsible are brought to justice;
- calling on the government to publicly condemn the attempt on Seth Sendashonga's life, and to make clear to members of the RPA that violent reprisals against individuals who denounce human rights abuses will not be tolerated.

APPEALS TO KENYA:

Mr Amos Wako
 Attorney General
 PO Box 40112, Nairobi, Kenya
Telegrams: Attorney General Wako, Sheria, Kenya
Faxes: +254 2 211 082
Salutation: Dear Attorney General

President Daniel arap Moi
 Office of the President
 PO Box 30510, Nairobi, Kenya
Telegrams: President Moi, Nairobi, Kenya
Telexes: 22003 FOREIGN ROB/22796 FOREIGN RB
Faxes: +254 2 337340
Salutation: Your Excellency

Mr Shadrack Kiruki
 Commissioner of Police
 Kenya Police Headquarters
 PO Box 30083, Nairobi, Kenya
Telegrams: Commissioner Kiruki, Police, Kenya
Salutation: Dear Police Commissioner

COPIES TO: diplomatic representatives of KENYA accredited to your country.

APPEALS TO RWANDA:

Major General Paul Kagame
Vice-Président et Ministre de la Défense
Présidence de la République, BP 15, Kigali, Rwanda
Faxes: + 250 83980; 84769; 72431
Telexes: 22502
Telegrams: Vice-President Kagame, Kigali, Rwanda
Salutation: Monsieur le Vice-Président / Dear Vice-President

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 Minister / Dear Minister

Anastase Gasana
Ministre des Affaires étrangères
Ministère des Affaires étrangères, Kigali, Rwanda
Faxes: +250 72934
Telegrams: Ministre des Affaires étrangères, Kigali, Rwanda
Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Dear Minister

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 20 April 1996.