

PUBLIC

AI Index: AFR 16/005/2001

15 January 2001

Further information on UA 06/01 (AFR 16/004/2001, 12 January 2001) - Fear of torture / Incommunicado detention

BURUNDI At least 11 people, including:

Daniel Nsanzurwimo, local government official (*Chef de zone*)

New names: Bernard Barayegeranije, advisor to Daniel Nsanzurwimo

Barnabé Barayegeranije, his brother

Simon Nani, local government official (*Chef de colline*)

Berchmans, farmer

Tite Mpawnimana, farmer

Ndagi, farmer

Rémy Ntuyahaga

"Mama Sonia" (f), trader

"Mama Richard" Niyikundana, trader

At least 11 people, including the 10 people named above, are now reported to have been detained in connection with a 4 December attack on a civilian aircraft. They are now reportedly held incommunicado at the *Brigade spéciale de Recherche*, (BSR), a gendarmerie special investigation unit in Bujumbura, with the exception of Madame Sonia, who is held at the headquarters of the *Police Spéciale de Roulage* (PSR), Special Haulage Police, Bujumbura. Torture is routine in both places, and Amnesty International remains concerned for their safety.

The detainees have reportedly been accused of failing to warn the authorities of the imminent attack. The basis for this accusation is not known. At least six of those detained were initially held incommunicado briefly at Gakumba military camp, close to the airport.

The SABENA aircraft was hit by gunfire as it approached Bujumbura airport, but landed safely. The Government of Burundi has attributed the attack to an armed opposition group, the *Forces nationales de libération* (FNL), National Liberation Forces. However, the FNL have denied responsibility, and has accused members of the armed forces of being behind the attack.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in French or in your own language (Please check whether postal services are operating to Burundi from your country):

- calling for immediate steps to be taken to establish the identities of and whereabouts of all those detained, and to protect them from torture and "disappearance";
- calling them to be granted immediate access to humanitarian and human rights organizations, lawyers and their families;
- calling on the authorities to state publically why they were arrested, and to release them immediately if they are not to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence for which there is substantiating evidence.

APPEALS TO:

Please note it can be difficult to get faxes through. You may be told by the operator that the line is not working or the number is wrong. Please keep trying.

Minister of Defence

Colonel Cyrille NDAYIRUKIYE

Ministre de la Défense Nationale

Ministère de la Défense Nationale
BP 1870 Bujumbura
Burundi

Telegram: Ministre Defense, Bujumbura, Burundi

Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre/Dear Minister

Fax: + 257 22 39 59 / 21 75 05

Chief of Defence Staff

Général Major Vincent NIYUNGEKO
Chef de l'Etat-major général des Forces armées
Etat-major général des Forces armées
Ministère de la Défense nationale
BP 1870 Bujumbura, Burundi

Telegram: Chef Etat Major, Forces armées, Bujumbura, Burundi

Saluation: Monsieur le Chef de l'Etat-major/Dear Chief of Defence Staff

Fax: + 257 22 39 59 / 21 75 05

Procureur Général de la République

Monsieur Gérard NGENDABANKA
Procureur Général de la République
Bujumbura
Burundi

Telegrams: Procureur general, Bujumbura, Burundi

Fax: + 257 24 15 03

**Salutation: Monsieur le Procureur général de la République / Dear State Public
Prosecutor**

COPIES TO:

Minister for Human Rights, Institutional Reform and Relations with the National
Assembly

Eugène NINDORERA, Ministre des droits de la Personne humaine, des réformes
institutionnelles, et des relations avec l'Assemblée nationale, Ministère des
droits de la Personne humaine, des réformes institutionnelles, et des relations
avec l'Assemblée nationale, Bujumbura, Burundi

Fax: + 257 21 38 47

and to diplomatic representatives of BURUNDI accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 26 February 2001.