

PUBLIC

AI Index: AFR 16/06/00

18 February 2000

Further information on UA 38/00 (AFR 16/05/00, 15 February 2000) - Death in detention / Torture and ill-treatment

BURUNDIScores of detainees including:

Lévi RUKONDO, School director

Nestor NIKOBAGOMBA

Canésius BARAKAMFITIYE, Adviser, Ministry of Foreign Relations

Eliazard BANDYAMBONA

André BAZIRINYAKAMWE, Employee, Ministry of Foreign Relations

André BIGIRIMANA

Pascal NYABENDA, farmer

Etienne BAYAMPUNDE, farmer

Diomède BUYOYA, domestic employee (dead)

The soldier who took Diomède Buyoya to the *Brigade spéciale de Recherche* (BSR), Special Investigation Unit, where he died in custody, has been arrested, accused of his murder.

Diomède Buyoya worked for the soldier's wife, who accused him of insulting her. The soldier, a BSR investigating officer, took him into custody on 12 February, and he died the following day, apparently as a result of torture.

The soldier has yet to be officially charged and investigations by military judicial officials are continuing. He is in detention at Mpimba Central Prison, Bujumbura.

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

- welcoming the inquiry into the death in custody of Diomède Buyoya, and requesting that Amnesty International be informed of its outcome;
- expressing grave concern for the safety of scores of people in military detention in Bujumbura, particularly the BSR, after reports of systematic torture and ill-treatment;
- calling for immediate steps to be taken to protect detainees held at the BSR, mentioning those named above, and asking that they be granted access to their families, medical care, and humanitarian and human rights organizations;
- calling for the accusations against detainees at the BSR to be promptly investigated and asking for their release if they are not to be charged on the basis of substantiated evidence;
- calling for proper registration of all detainees in military and civilian custody.

APPEALS TO: (It can be difficult to get faxes through. Please keep trying).

State Public Prosecutor

Monsieur Gérard NGENDABANKA

Procureur Général de la République

Bujumbura

Burundi

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

Fax:+ 257 24 15 03

Telegrams: Procureur General, Bujumbura, Burundi

Minister of Defence

Colonel Cyrille NDAYIRUKIYE
Ministre de la Défense Nationale
Ministère de la Défense Nationale
BUJUMBURA
Burundi

Fax: + 257 22 39 59 / 22 71 05

Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Dear Minister

Telegrams: Ministre Défense, Bujumbura, Burundi

Minister of Justice

Monsieur TERENCE SINUNGURUZA
Ministre de la Justice et Garde des sceaux
Ministère de la Justice
BP 1880 BUJUMBURA
Burundi

Fax:+ 257 22 21 48

Salutation:Monsieur le Ministre / Dear Minister

Telegrams:Ministre Justice, Bujumbura, Burundi

COPIES TO:

Minister of Human Rights

Monsieur 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 75 49

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation

Monsieur Séverin NTAHOMVUKIYE
Ministre des Relations extérieures et de la Coopération,
Ministère des Relations extérieures, BUJUMBURA, Burundi

Fax:+ 257 22 63 13

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 28 March 2000.