

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AFR 16/13/97

25 April 1997

Further information on UA 73/97 (AFR 16/04/97, 19 March 1997) - Fear of ill-treatment / Torture and new Medical concern

BURUNDI Commandant Ndadabekure, army officer

Captain Nziyimana, army officer

Isaac Nitereka, engineer with Brasserie du Burundi, member of the executive board of PARENA and PARENA representative for urban Bujumbura

Alexis Simbavimbere, Burundi Batteries Industries financial manager, PARENA member

Laurent Bimenyumuremyi, deputy provincial representative PARENA representative in Gitega

Emmanuel Manzi (also known as Paul Mugambage, [previously listed as two people], a Rwandese national, ex-member Rwandese Patriotic Front, Rwanda (not RPA)

Isidore Rufyikiri, senior PARENA official

Lt-Col (retd) Pascal Ntako, senior PARENA official

New names: Jean Paul Bizimana

Léonidas Ntakaye, member of the executive board of PARENA

Amnesty International remains concerned for the physical safety of the detainees named above following reports that they have been tortured and threatened since their arrest, probably with a view to extracting confessions. The organization fears the men are at risk of further torture or ill-treatment and is also concerned that one of the detainees, Lt-Colonel (retd) Ntako, has reportedly been denied the essential medical care he requires for diabetes.

The men, who were arrested on or around 8 or 9 March 1997, have been accused of being responsible for a series of mine explosions in Bujumbura, the capital and of involvement in a plot to assassinate president Major Buyoya. None have been charged. The cases are being investigated by a military commission. Amnesty International is concerned that the commission may not be fully impartial or independent.

The majority of the detainees named above, most of whom are now known to have been held initially at the *Documentation nationale*, intelligence unit, Bujumbura have been transferred to other places of detention outside Bujumbura.

Isidore Rufyikiri is reported to have been transferred to Rumonge prison, Bururi province, southern Burundi; Lieutenant Colonel (retd) Ntako to Muyinga prison, Muyinga Province, north eastern Burundi; Captain Nziyimana to Ngozi prison, Ngozi Province, northern Burundi; Isaac Nitereka to Ruyigi prison, Ruyigi province, eastern Burundi; and Laurent Bimenyumuremyi, who was arrested in Gitega and held at Gitega prison for around one week before being transferred to the *Documentation nationale*, to Muramvya prison, Muramvya Province, east of Bujumbura. Commandant Ndadabekure is reported to be held at the *Brigade spéciale de recherche* (BSR), Special Investigation Unit, Bujumbura. Emmanuel Manzi, also known as Paul Mugambage, is reported to be held in the Mpimba central prison, Bujumbura, as is Jean Paul Bizimana. Most of the detainees have not been seen since their arrest.

At least 40 other people, supporters of former president Bagaza, currently under house arrest, are reported to have been arrested around the same time.

Like the men named above they are reported to have been separated and to be held in various places of detention in Bujumbura and in the provinces. Another

man, Léonidas Ntakaye, a member of the executive board of the *Parti pour le redressement national* (PARENA), National Recovery Party, has also been arrested and accused of involvement in the alleged plot to kill president Major Buyoya. The exact date of his arrest is not known to Amnesty International.

Amnesty International is investigating reports that the arrests may be politically motivated and may relate to their membership or association with PARENA and its opposition to the current government.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/faxes in French or in your own language:

- calling for immediate measures to guarantee the physical integrity of the men named above following reports that they have been subjected to torture and ill-treatment, and may have been denied medical care;
- seeking assurances that the men will be allowed immediate access to legal counsel, medical care and their families;
- urging that the reports of ill-treatment and torture be investigated, and if found to be true, those responsible removed from positions of authority and brought to justice in accordance with international standards of fairness;
- seeking clarification of the legal status of the detainees and of the basis of the accusation against them and calling for legal procedures to be fully adhered to. Urging that they be released if they are not to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence and brought to trial in accordance with international standards of fairness.

NOTE: No mail is getting through to Burundi at present

APPEALS TO:

President

Major Pierre Buyoya
Président de la République
Présidence de la République

Fax: 257 22 7490

Telegrams: Major Buyoya, Bujumbura, Burundi

Salutation: Monsieur le Président/Dear President

Minister of Justice

Gervais Rubashamiheto
Ministre de la Justice et Garde des sceaux
Ministère de la Justice

Fax: 257 22 2148

Telegrams: Ministre Rubashamiheto, Bujumbura, Burundi

Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre/Dear Minister

Minister of Interior

Lieutenant-Colonel Epitace BAYAKANAKANDI
Ministre de l'Intérieur
Ministère de l'Intérieur

Fax : + 257 222148 / 213055

Telegrams: Ministre de l'Intérieur, Bujumbura, Burundi

Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre/Dear Minister

Procurator General

Monsieur Jean-Bosco BUTASI
Procureur Général

Fax: 257 222148

Monsieur le Procureur Général

COPIES TO:

Minister of Defence

Lieutenant-Col. Firmin SINZOYIHEBA

Ministre de la Défense Nationale

Fax: 257 22 39 59

Minister for Human Rights

Madame Christine RUHAZA

Ministre des Droits de la Personne

Fax: + 257 216102

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 12 June 1997.