

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AFR 16/15/97

21 May 1997

Further information on UA 73/97 (AFR 16/04/97, 19 March 1997) and follow-up (AFR 16/13/97, 25 April 1997) - Fear of ill-treatment / Torture / Medical concern

BURUNDI Commandant Ndabacekure, 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, a Rwandese national, ex-member Rwandese Patrotic Front, Rwanda (note corrected name and function)  
Isidore Rufyikiri, senior PARENA official  
Lt-Col (retd) Pascal Ntako, senior PARENA official  
Jean Paul Bizimana  
Léonidas Ntakaye, member of the executive board of PARENA

---

Lt-Colonel (retd) Pascal Ntako died in detention in Muyinga prison on or around 11 May 1997, apparently as a result of being denied essential medical care. Amnesty International had raised concerns over his health after receiving reports that he was being denied essential medical care for diabetes. He is also reported to have suffered from hypertension, for which he also received no medical care.

Members of his family are reported to have been harassed at his funeral which took place in Mpanda, north west of Bujumbura.

Lt-Colonel Ntako was arrested on or around 8 or 9 March 1997. He and the men named above were accused of being behind a series of mine explosions in Bujumbura, the capital, and of involvement in a plot to assassinate president Major Buyoya. None are known to have been charged. The majority of the detainees are reported to have been tortured in the early stages of their detention.

Amnesty International is calling for an immediate independent investigation into the circumstances of the death of Lt-Colonel Ntako, and if any hospital or prison official is found to have committed a human rights violation, they should be brought to justice in accordance with international standards of fairness. The organization is also calling for immediate steps to be taken to guarantee the safety of the other detainees named above.

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

- expressing concern at the death in detention, apparently as a result of the denial of essential medical care on 11 May 1997 of Lt-Colonel Ntako and calling for an immediate investigation into the circumstances of his death;
- asking what steps have been taken to protect the safety and physical integrity of the other detainees named above and seeking assurances

that they will all be allowed access to doctors, legal counsel, their families and humanitarian organizations;

- 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 the detainees 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:**

Minister for Internal Affairs and Public Security

Lt-Col. Epitace BAYAGANAKANDI

Ministre de l'Intérieur et de la Sécurité Publique

Ministère de l'Intérieur

**Salutation : Monsieur le Ministre**

**Telegram : Ministre de l'Intérieur, Bujumbura, Burundi**

**Fax: 257 222148 / 257 2130 55**

Minister of Justice

Monsieur Terence SINUNGURUZA

Ministre de la Justice et Garde des sceaux

Ministère de la Justice

**Salutation : Monsieur le Ministre**

**Fax: 257 22 21 48**

**Telegram: Ministre de la Justice, Bujumbura, Burundi**

Minister of Defence

Lieutenant-Col. Firmin SINZOYIHEBA

Ministre de la Défense Nationale

Ministère de la Défense

**Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre**

**Fax: 257 22 39 59**

**Telegrams: Ministre de la Défense, Bujumbura, Burundi**

Procureur général

Monsieur Charles Ntarwarara

Procureur général

**Fax: 257 222148**

**Monsieur le procureur général**

**COPIES TO:**

President

Major Pierre Buyoya

Président de la République

Présidence de la République

**Fax: 257 22 7490**

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 2 July 1997.