

15 September 1999

**Further information on UA 207/99 (AFR 16/17/99, 13 August 1999) - Extrajudicial executions/Fear of further extrajudicial executions****BURUNDI Unarmed civilians in Kanyosha and Kabezi communes,  
Rural Bujumbura Province, and Bujumbura**

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There have been further killings by both soldiers and armed opposition groups in and around the capital, Bujumbura. Amnesty International remains deeply concerned for the safety of the civilian population of Kanyosha and Kabezi communes, Rural Bujumbura province and Bujumbura itself.

In Kabezi commune, soldiers reportedly killed five unarmed civilians, including three children aged between three and eight, in Sagamba, near Ruziba, on 23 August, and a further three unarmed civilians who had been harvesting bananas near Gitaramuka military post on 26 August. On the morning of 27 August, soldiers reportedly raped the wife of a man called Bitungyiye in Nkenga, near Ruziba.

On the night of 28 August, an armed opposition group reportedly attacked several areas of Bujumbura, killing three unarmed civilians in Gihosha and up to 17 unarmed civilians in Musaga, on the outskirts of the capital, close to Kanyosha. The group also attacked the district of Kamenge and reportedly injured two policemen. Government soldiers reportedly killed three unarmed civilians in Kamenge the same night.

One armed opposition group, the *Forces pour la défense de la démocratie* (FDD), Forces for the Defence of Democracy, the armed wing of the *Conseil National pour la défense de la démocratie* (CNDD), National Council for the Defence of Democracy, has confirmed that its forces were fighting the army in the area but claim their aim was to defend the civilian population.

The final death toll from the killings in Kanyosha and Ruziba of 10-13 August is still not confirmed. However it appears that more than 100 unarmed civilians were killed. Amnesty International has the names of more than 50 reported victims.

Estimates of the number of people killed on 12 August in Ruziba vary considerably. According to reports received by Amnesty International, at least 50 unarmed civilians were killed. Amnesty International is continuing to investigate these killings. Investigations into killings in Ruziba have been particularly difficult as the area was sealed off by the armed forces for several days after the killings.

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in French or your own language:****To the Burundian government:**

- expressing concern about reports that dozens of unarmed civilians have been extrajudicially executed by the Burundian army in Kanyosha and Ruziba communes, Rural Bujumbura Province, since mid-August;
- stating that Amnesty International also condemns deliberate and arbitrary killings of civilians by armed opposition groups;
- urging the authorities to immediately start impartial investigations into the reports of extrajudicial executions in Kanyosha and Ruziba, and to bring those responsible to justice;

- calling on the authorities to allow independent journalists, human rights workers and investigators unhindered access to the areas, to ensure that they can carry out their work without harassment and that witnesses are protected;
- calling for immediate action to prevent further extrajudicial executions by the security forces.

**To the leaders of the *Conseil National pour la défense de la démocratie (CNDD)* :**

- expressing concern at reports that up to 17 unarmed civilians were killed in Musaga, and three in Gihosha, by an armed opposition group in the night of 28 August 1999, in and near Bujumbura;
- stating that Amnesty International is also concerned about reports of extrajudicial executions by the Burundian army in Kanyosha and Ruziba communes, Rural Bujumbura Province, since mid-August;
- urging the CNDD-FDD to investigate whether any of its members were involved in the killings of 28 August, and if so, to ensure that they are removed from any position in which they may commit human rights abuses against civilians and those who are *hors de combat*;
- calling upon the CNDD-FDD to abide by international humanitarian law, in particular Common Article 3 of the 1949 Geneva Conventions and Protocol II which specifically prohibit all parties to an internal armed conflict from targeting people taking no active part in hostilities.

**APPEALS TO:** (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. Before you mail letters, please check whether there is a postal service from your country to Burundi.)

President

Major Pierre Buyoya  
Président de la République  
Présidence de la République  
BP 1870, Bujumbura, Burundi  
**Telegrams: Major Buyoya, Bujumbura, Burundi**  
**Faxes: + 257 22 7490**  
**Salutation: Dear President**

Minister of Defence

Lieutenant-Col. Alfred NKURUNZIZA  
Ministre de la Défense Nationale  
Ministère de la Défense Nationale  
BP 1870 Bujumbura, Burundi  
**Telegrams: Ministre Défense, Bujumbura, Burundi**  
**Faxes: + 257 22 39 59 / 21 75 05**  
**Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Dear Minister**

Military Prosecutor

Colonel BATUNGWAYAYO  
Auditeur Militaire  
Ministère de la Défense  
Bujumbura, Burundi  
**Telegrams: Auditeur Militaire, Bujumbura, Burundi**  
**Faxes: + 22 39 59 / 21 75 05**  
**Salutation: Monsieur l'Auditeur Militaire / Dear Military Prosecutor**

**COPIES TO:**

Minister for Human Rights

Eugène NINDORERA, Ministre des droits de la Personne humaine, Ministère des droits de la Personne humaine, Bujumbura, Burundi

**Faxes: + 257 21 75 49**

and to diplomatic representatives of Burundi accredited to your country.

**Leaders of the *Conseil National pour la défense de la démocratie* (CNDD)**

Monsieur Léonard NYANGOMA  
Président, CNDD  
c/o Jérôme NDIHO, Spokesperson  
Rue de la Source 26, Boite 6  
1300 Wavre, Belgium  
**Fax: + 32 10 227992**  
**Salutation: Monsieur**

Mr Jean Bosco NDAYIKENGURUKIYE  
Commander and General Coordinator, CNDD  
c/o Jérôme NDIHO, Spokesperson  
Rue de la Source 26, Boite 6  
1300 Wavre, Belgium  
**Fax: + 32 10 227992**  
**Salutation: Monsieur**

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 27 October 1999.