

PUBLIC

AI Index: AFR 16/020/2001

27 March 2001

Further information on UA 68/01 (AFR 16/017/2001, 19 March 2001) and follow-up (AFR 16/019/2001, 19 March 2001) - "Disappearance" / Fear of torture / Incommunicado detention / Health concern (new concern)

**BURUNDIPaul NSANZURWIMO, civil servant
Emile MASABO (now confirmed to be held with Paul Nsanzurwimo)**

Paul Nsanzurwimo may need urgent medical treatment following ill-treatment in custody. Shortly after his arrest by soldiers on 16 March, Paul Nsanzurwimo, who wears glasses, was beaten on the head and face by soldiers. The soldiers broke his glasses and some glass is feared to have entered his eye. He has not yet received any medical attention. Amnesty International fears that unless he receives medical treatment, his condition could worsen.

Paul Nsanzurwimo and his brother-in-law, Emile Masabo, are still being held in incommunicado detention at the Cibitoke military camp in northern Burundi. They are thought to be held in poor conditions, and it is not clear whether they have been given anything to eat.

Paul Nsanzurwimo and Emile Masabo were arrested along with nine other men and a 14-year-old boy near the capital, Bujumbura, after soldiers accused local people of supporting an armed opposition group, which had stolen cattle in the area. The detainees were initially held at a military post in Mubone zone, Rural Bujumbura, where they were tied up and beaten. They were reportedly told that they would be killed, but the execution was prevented when a soldier intervened on their behalf. They were later transferred to Cibitoke. The other detainees have been released without charge (see original UA and follow-up).

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

- urging the authorities to ensure that Paul Nsanzurwimo receives urgent medical treatment;
- calling on the authorities to guarantee his and Emile Masabo's safety and physical well-being;
- asking that they be given immediate access to their families, lawyers and humanitarian and human rights organizations;
- asking to be informed of the basis for their arrest;
- urging that they are immediately released, if they are not to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence;
- expressing concern that Paul Nsanzurwimo, Emile Masabo and other detainees were ill-treated at the military post in Mubone zone, Rural Bujumbura;
- calling on the authorities to ensure that all law enforcement agencies respect arrest and detention procedures, and that access to all places of detention is guaranteed;
- urging that immediate action is taken against any member of the security forces suspected of human rights violations, including against detainees.

APPEALS TO (Please note, it can be difficult to get through on the numbers given below, and you may be told by the operator that they are temporarily out of order. Please be patient and keep trying):

Head of State
Son Excellence

Major Pierre BUYOYA
Président de la République
Présidence de la République
BP 1870 Bujumbura, Burundi
Telegrams: President, Bujumbura, Burundi
Faxes: + 257 22 74 90
Salutation: Monsieur le Président de la République / Dear President

Minister of National Defence
Colonel Cyrille NDAYIRUKIYE
Ministre de la Défense Nationale
Ministère de la Défense Nationale
BUJUMBURA, Burundi
Telegrams: Ministre Defense, Bujumbura, Burundi
Faxes: + 257 22 56 86
Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Dear Minister

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 8 May 2001.