

30 September 1999

Further information on UA 255/99 (AFR 16/20/99, 28 September 1999) -
Torture/Fear of torture

BURUNDIGeorgette MPAWENIMANA

Déo NZEYIMANA, director of the *Laboratoire de contrôle et d'analyse chimique*
of the Ministry of Mines and Energy

Nestor RUBERINTWARE

Scores of other detainees in and around Bujumbura

Amnesty International is concerned at reports that Déo Nzeyimana has been tortured by being beaten on the soles of his feet, and that both he and his wife, Georgette Mpawenimana, are being denied food in detention at the *Brigade spéciale de recherche* (BSR), special investigation unit headquarters, in Bujumbura. Amnesty International also considers this to be a form of torture.

The organization is investigating reports that Georgette Mpawenimana may also have been beaten.

Georgette Mpawenimana is reported not to have had any food since her arrest on 26 September. Déo Nzeyimana has been denied visits and is also reported not to have been given food since his arrest. The two are apparently being denied food as punishment and to force them to make statements.

Neither Déo Nzeyimana or Georgette Mpawenimana have been charged with a criminal offence. It appears that Georgette Mpawenimana, who works with a Swiss- and French-financed project in Rural Bujumbura province, intended to support small scale economic and reconstruction initiatives in the community, is accused of links with the armed opposition. The basis for this accusation is not known. She was apparently taken to a nearby police station for questioning on 28 September but was returned to the BSR the next day.

Both Georgette Mpawenimana and Déo Nzeyimana are members of the political party, the *Front pour la démocratie au Burundi* (FRODEBU), Front for Democracy in Burundi.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in French or your own language (please check with your post office whether there are postal services to Burundi):

- expressing concern at reports that Déo Nzeyimana has been beaten on the soles of his feet and that he and Georgette Mpawenimana are being denied food as a form of torture at the *Brigade spéciale de recherche* (BSR), special investigation unit, Bujumbura.
- asking seeking assurances that these allegations will be investigated and that immediate steps will be taken to ensure that the two will be protected from further ill-treatment or torture, and will be given food immediately;
- calling for the accusations against the detainees to be thoroughly and impartially investigated and for them to be released unless they are to be promptly charged with a recognized criminal offence, with substantive evidence to support the accusations against them;
- calling on the authorities to allow them immediate and continuing access to their families, legal counsel, medical care and representatives of humanitarian and human rights organizations.

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

Minister of Justice

Monsieur Terence SINUNGURUZA
Ministre de la Justice et Garde des sceaux
Ministère de la Justice, Bujumbura, Burundi
Fax: 257 21 86 10
Telegram: Ministre Justice, Bujumbura, Burundi
Salutation : Monsieur le Ministre / Dear Minister

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

Commander of the Brigade spéciale de recherche

Capitaine MANIRAKIZA
Brigade spéciale de recherche
BUJUMBURA, Burundi
Telegrams: Cmdt BSR, Bujumbura, Burundi
Faxes:c/o Ministry of Defence+ 257 22 39 59 / 21 75 05
Salutation:Monsieur le Commandant/Dear Commander

COPIES TO:

Minister for Human Rights

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, Bujumbura, Burundi
Fax:+ 257 21 75 49

State Public Prosecutor

Gerard NGENDABANKA, Procureur de la République, Bujumbura, Burundi
Fax:+ 257 24 15 03

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 11 November 1999.