

24 July 1997

Further information on EXTRA 77/97 (AFR 16/17/97, 29 May 1997) - Fear of torture and ill-treatment / Deaths in custody**BURUNDI Detainees at Socarti military camp, Kamenge, Bujumbura including:**

PAZIRUPWABO Jérôme	NDAYISHINIYE Samuel
Pascal "Le Vieux"	GIHONGA
NIMBONA Georges	Alexis "Papi"
NDIKUMANA Bosco	BERAHINO
Alexis	NGENDABADASHAKA Elie
Omar	Eric

The men named above, previously detained at Socarti military camp in the Kamenge district of Bujumbura, have been transferred to Mpimba central prison, Bujumbura. The date of their transfer, together with up to 40 other detainees also arrested on suspicion of links with armed groups, is reported to have occurred in late June or early July 1997. There were serious fears for their safety whilst at Socarti, an unofficial detention centre, following the deaths in May of three other men detained there apparently as a result of torture.

The cases of all those transferred to Mpimba central prison are reported to have been forwarded to the judiciary although the detainees are yet to be formally charged in court.

Other detainees, whose identities are not known to Amnesty International, are reported to remain in Socarti. Amnesty International considers them, in particular, to be at serious risk of human rights violations including torture or ill-treatment due to the unofficial status of this detention centre.

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

- welcoming the transfer of the men named above to an official place of detention and seeking assurances that they are being safeguarded against ill-treatment and torture;
- seeking assurances that legal procedures be fully adhered to and that the detainees be given access to family, doctors, legal counsel and humanitarian organizations;
- calling for the detainees to be formally charged and brought to justice in accordance with international standards of fairness or otherwise released;

Additionally, if you are able:

- expressing concern that Socarti military camp appears still to be used as an unofficial place of detention and that other detainees, whose identities are not known to Amnesty International, are reported to be held there without charge or trial;
- expressing concern that use of unofficial detention centres makes detainees more vulnerable to human rights violations such as torture and urging the authorities to investigate the use of Socarti as a detention centre and to ensure that legal procedures for arrest and detention are followed;
- calling for reports of torture and death of those in detention in Socarti to be investigated and those responsible removed from positions of authority and brought to justice in accordance with international standards of fairness.

APPEALS TO:

Note: Fax numbers for the Minister for Internal Affairs and Public Security in particular are working intermittently. If unable to obtain a fax tone please try again later.

Minister for Internal Affairs and Public Security

Lt-Col. Epitace BAYAGANAKANDI

Ministre de l'Intérieur et de la Sécurité Publique

Ministère de l'Intérieur

Telegrams : Ministre Interieur, Bujumbura, Burundi

Fax: 257 22 21 48 / 257 21 30 55

Salutation : Monsieur le Ministre

Minister of Defence

Lieutenant-Col. Firmin SINZOYIHEBA

Ministre de la Défense Nationale

Ministère de la Défense

Telegrams: Ministre Defense, Bujumbura, Burundi

Fax: 257 22 56 86

Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre

President

Major Pierre Buyoya

Président de la République

Présidence de la République

Telegrams: Major Buyoya, Bujumbura, Burundi

Fax: 257 22 7490

Salutation: Monsieur le President

COPIES TO:

Minister of Justice

Monsieur Terence SINUNGURUZA

Ministre de la Justice et Garde des sceaux

Ministère de la Justice

Fax: 257 21 61 02 (Via the Minister for Human Rights. Please ask for your fax to be forwarded to the Minister of Justice).

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 21 August 1997.