

PUBLIC

AI Index: AFR 16/028/2001

19 April 2001

Further information on UA 68/01 (AFR 16/017/2001, 19 March 2001) and follow-ups (AFR 16/019/2001, 20 March 2001; AFR 16/020/2001, 27 March 2001; AFR 16/022/2001, 30 March 2001; AFR 16/026/2001, 9 April 2001) - "Disappearance" / Fear of Torture / Incommunicado detention

BURUNDI Emile MASABO

It has been confirmed that Emile Masabo, who "disappeared" after being taken into military custody, is being held in detention cells (*cachots*) at the local administration in the village of Mubone in Mutimbuzi commune, close to the capital, Bujumbura. He has not been charged and Amnesty International continues to be concerned about his safety.

Emile Masabo had initially been arrested on 16 March in Maramvya sector, Mutimbuzi commune and transferred to a military camp in northern Burundi. On or around 28 March, he was told he was being released. He was brought to Bujumbura, but rather than being released, he was once more taken into custody. He had not been seen since, and attempts to establish his whereabouts had been unsuccessful.

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 own country):

- welcoming that the authorities have acknowledged Emile Masabo's detention and confirmed his whereabouts;
- calling for him to be granted immediate access to family, lawyers, medical care and humanitarian and human rights organizations;
- asking to be informed of the basis for his continued detention, and urging that he be immediately released, if he is not to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence for which there is substantiating evidence;
- calling on the authorities to take urgent measures to ensure members of the armed forces respect arrest and detention procedures, and to bring to justice those found to have tortured or extrajudicially executed detainees in their custody.

APPEALS TO: (Please note, it can be difficult to get through on the numbers given below. 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

Minister for Internal Affairs and Public Security

Colonel Ascension TWAGIRAMUNGU
Ministre de l'Intérieur et de la Sécurité Publique
Ministère de l'Intérieur
BUJUMBURA, Burundi

Telegrams: Ministre interieur, Bujumbura, Burundi
Fax: + 257 22 19 82
Saluation:Monsieur le Ministre / Dear Minister

State Public Prosecutor

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 31 May 2001.