

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AFR 47/03/93

UA 41/93

Extrajudicial execution/fear of extrajudicial  
execution/fear of torture/incommunicado detention

Distr: UA/SC

18 February 1993

**RWANDA: Civilian members of the Tutsi ethnic group and others from the south of Rwanda including:  
Kituku HAYIDARUSI, a Ugandan national living in Kigali  
"Evariste", a photographer and sixteen others who have been killed**

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Amnesty International has received reports that members of the government security forces have been detaining Tutsi in the capital, Kigali, over the past week. Some of those detained are reported to be Hutu who come from the south of the country and are identified with political parties opposed to Rwanda's President. They have been held in military custody and reportedly subjected to harsh beatings. Several are known to have died as a result. These incidents follow a period of about two months in which several hundred members of Rwanda's minority Tutsi ethnic group have been murdered by vigilantes belonging to the Hutu majority.

Soldiers are reported to have been carrying out identity checks in Kigali's streets. Most identity cards indicate whether the person concerned is Hutu or Tutsi. Many Tutsi have been assaulted by soldiers when their ethnic identity has been revealed and some have been detained. No information has been issued by the authorities about the reasons for the arrest or the places in which detainees are being held, and relatives are reported to be too frightened to make inquiries on their behalf. However, it seems that most detainees have been taken to military barracks in Kigali.

At least 19 of those detainees are reported to have been killed in custody during the past week and their bodies taken out of military barracks for burial elsewhere. The corpses are reported to show evidence of severe beatings and, in some cases, gunshot wounds. Only a few of the corpses have been identified: one a local photographer and the other Ugandan national resident in Kigali.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

In October 1990 rebels belonging to the Front patriotique rwandais (FPR), Rwandese Patriotic Front, attacked Rwanda from neighbouring Uganda. Most FPR fighters are Tutsi. Following the attack, some 7,000 people were arrested most of them Tutsi; virtually all were subjected to severe beatings and some were killed or died before most were released uncharged six months later. Since the rebel attack about 2,000 people, most of them Tutsi regarded as possible supporters of the FPR, and Hutu members of opposition parties, have been killed by Hutu gangs and members of the security forces. The authorities have so far not brought anyone responsible for the killings to justice. Fighting has been continuing in some parts of northern Rwanda, and cease fires have regularly broken down.

In mid-1992 the Rwandese transitional government led by a Prime Minister from a party opposed to the policies of President Habyarimana and the ruling Mouvement républicain national pour la démocratie et le développement, (MRND), agreed to an international investigation into human rights violations which have occurred since October 1990. A number of international non-governmental organizations were invited by the Minister of Justice to

take part and their representatives visited Rwanda in January 1993. In a public statement issued after concluding its investigations, the commission said both security and government officials and supporters of the MRND and the Coalition pour la défense de la république, CDR, an allied political party had been responsible for widespread human rights violations. In one case it discovered a mass grave near the home of a local official in Gisenyi district.

Since the beginning of January 1993, hundreds of unarmed civilians, mainly from the Tutsi ethnic group, have been killed in attacks carried out by vigilante groups of MRND or CDR supporters. The authorities say nearly 100 have been killed. These attacks are reminiscent of attacks in January and February 1991 when hundreds of members of the

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Tutsi Bagogwe clan in northeast Rwanda were reportedly killed. Similar killings occurred on a smaller scale in several districts in 1992.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters either in French, English or in your own language:**

- expressing concern at recent arrests of civilians in Kigali by soldiers on account of their origins (ethnic or geographical);
- expressing particular concern at reports that on 13 and 15 February 1993 the bodies of a total of 16 prisoners were taken out of military camps for burial, and that eye-witnesses say these bore signs of beatings and in some cases, of gunshot wounds;
- urging immediate action by the government to uphold the human rights of those detained, to end arbitrary detention, torture and extrajudicial executions;
- urging in particular a public inquiry into the treatment of detainees in custody and the circumstances and causes at least 19 deaths in custody, with a view to bringing any military personnel responsible for unlawful killings or torture to justice;
- appealing to the authorities to make public the identities of all those still held in military custody and to allow them immediate and regular access to their relatives to any necessary medical attention, to legal counsel and to members of humanitarian organizations and local human rights organizations;
- urging too that any detainees held on account of their origins (ethnic or geographical) be released immediately and unconditionally, and that all detainees in military custody be released unless they are detained in accordance with the law and to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence.

**APPEALS TO**

1. President:

Son Excellence  
Monsieur le Général-Major  
Président HABYARIMANA Juvénal  
Président de la République  
Présidence de la République  
BP 15, Kigali, République rwandaise  
**Telegrams: President Habyarimana, Kigali, Rwanda**  
**Telexes: 22517**  
**Faxes: + 250 74583**

**Salutation: Monsieur le Président  
de la République /  
Dear President**

2. Prime Minister:

Monsieur NSENGIYAREMYE Dismas  
Premier Ministre  
Présidence de la République  
BP 15, Kigali, République rwandaise  
**Telegrams: Premier Ministre, Kigali, Rwanda**  
**Telexes: 22502**  
**Faxes: + 250 72902, + 250 72904**

**Salutation: Monsieur le Premier  
Ministre /  
Dear Prime Minister**

3. Minister of Defence:

Monsieur GASANA James  
Ministre à la Présidence pour

**Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre /  
Dear Minister**

la Défense et la Sécurité  
BP 15, Kigali, République rwandaise  
**Telegrams: Ministre Defense, Kigali, Rwanda**  
**Telexes: 22517**  
**Faxes: + 250 74583**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

Minister of Foreign Affairs:  
Monsieur NGULINZIRA Boniface  
Ministre des Affaires étrangères et de la  
Coopération  
Ministère des Affaires étrangères  
BP 179, Kigali, République rwandaise

and the following newspapers:

Monsieur Vincent Rwabukwisi  
Rédacteur-en-Chef  
Journal Kanguka  
BP 2119, Kigali, Rwanda

and to diplomatic representatives of Rwanda accredited to your country.

Chief of Staff:

Chef d'Etat - major des forces armées  
Deogratias NSABIMANA  
BP 15, Kigali, République rwandaise  
**Faxes: + 250 74583**

Abbé André SIBOMANA  
Rédacteur-en-Chef  
Journal Kinyamateka  
BP 761, Kigali, Rwanda

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 1 April 1993.