

PUBLIC

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Fear of "Disappearance"/Fear of ill-treatment and torture 4 May 2000

RWANDA

Bruno Bahati, civil society activist

Bruno Bahati was reportedly arrested by Rwandese security forces at the Rwanda - Uganda border on or around 22 April. He is reportedly detained incommunicado in Gikondo gendarmerie detention centre (*brigade*), in the capital, Kigali, where Amnesty International fears he is at risk of torture.

Bruno Bahati, a Congolese citizen, was on his way to eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) when he was arrested. The reason for his arrest is not known, and there has been no official confirmation of where he is held. Human rights groups who have tried to visit him in Gikondo *brigade* have been denied access.

Bruno Bahati is a member of the *Bureau de Coordination de la Société civile du Sud-Kivu*, Coordination Office of South-Kivu civil society, an umbrella group of non-governmental organizations, including human rights groups, based in South-Kivu, in eastern DRC.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Civilian detainees in Rwanda are often held in military detention centres, which is against Rwandese law. Both civilian and military detainees at these centres are generally denied access to their relatives, lawyers, doctors and human rights and humanitarian organizations. Amnesty International receives frequent reports of torture at these centres, as well as reports of death in detention and "disappearance".

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

- calling for Bruno Bahati's whereabouts to be made public immediately, and for him to be allowed immediate access to human rights and humanitarian organizations;
- calling for him to be protected from ill-treatment and torture while he is detained;
- calling for him to be released immediately.

APPEALS TO:

President

Major General Paul KAGAME

Président

Présidence de la République

BP 15, KIGALI

Rwanda

Telegrams: President, Kigali, Rwanda

Fax: + 250 84769/84390

Salutation: Dear President / Monsieur le Président

Minister of Defence

Colonel Emmanuel HABYARIMANA

Ministre de la Défense

Ministère de la Défense

BP 23, KIGALI

Rwanda

Fax: + 250 72431/76969

Salutation: Dear Minister / Monsieur le Ministre

Telegram: Ministre Defense, Kigali, Rwanda

Minister of Justice and Institutional Relations

Monsieur Jean de Dieu MUCYO

Ministre de la Justice et des Relations institutionnelles

Ministère de la Justice

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BP 160 KIGALI
Rwanda

Fax: + 250-86509

Salutation: Dear Minister / Monsieur le Ministre

Telegram: Ministre Justice, Kigali, Rwanda

COPIES TO:

Gasana Ndobu

President of the National Human Rights Commission

BP 269, KIGALI

Rwanda

Fax: + 250 82702

and to diplomatic representatives of Rwanda accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 15 June 2000.