

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AFR 47/19/97

2 June 1997

Further information on EXTRA 71/97 (AFR 47/17/97, 19 May 1997) -
Death penalty / unfair trial

RWANDALéonidas Ndikumwami

Léonidas Ndikumwami's case was heard by the Court of Appeal in Kigali on 22 May 1997. On 31 May, the Court of Appeal announced that his appeal was admissible on the grounds that his right to legal defence had been violated. The court has ordered further investigations into the charges against him. The time frame for these investigations is not yet known.

This is the first appeal which has been judged admissible since the trials of those accused of participation in the genocide began in Rwanda in December 1996.

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

- welcoming the Court of Appeal's decision to accept Léonidas Ndikumwami's appeal on the grounds that he had been denied legal defence;
- expressing your belief that this decision sets an important precedent in establishing the right to a fair trial in Rwanda, in particular the right to legal defence;
- expressing concern, however, that Léonidas Ndikumwami remains under sentence of death and reiterating Amnesty International's unconditional opposition to the use of the death penalty.

APPEALS TO:

President

Son Excellence Pasteur BIZIMUNGU
Président de la République
Présidence de la République
BP 15, KIGALI, Rwanda

Fax: +250 84390

Telegrams: Président Bizimungu, Kigali, Rwanda

Salutation: Monsieur le Président / Dear President

Minister of Justice

Faustin NTEZIRYAYO
Ministre de la Justice
Ministère de la Justice
BP 160, KIGALI, Rwanda

Fax: +250 86509

Telegrams: Ministre Justice, Kigali, Rwanda

Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Dear Minister

Procurator General

Monsieur Siméon RWAGASORE
Procureur général
Parquet général
BP 2886, KIGALI, Rwanda

Telegrams: Procureur Général, Kigali, Rwanda

Salutation: Monsieur le Procureur Général / Dear Procurator General

COPIES TO:

Vice-President and Minister of Defence
Général-Major Paul KAGAME
Vice-Président de la République
et Ministre de la Défense
Présidence de la République
BP 23, KIGALI, Rwanda
Fax: +250 72431 / 76969

Prime Minister
Monsieur Pierre-Célestin RWIGEMA
Premier Ministre
BP 15, KIGALI, Rwanda
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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 4 July 1997.