

**EXTERNAL**

**AI Index: AFR 47/21/95**

**1 November 1995**

**Further information on UA 111/95 (AFR 47/10/95, 16 May 1995) - Death Penalty**

**RWANDA**

**Captain David RWAPAPA**

**Second Lieutenant Innocent NGOGA**

---

Amnesty International has recently received a response from Rwanda's Vice Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior, Colonel Alexis Kanyarengwe, to the letters sent to him concerning two army officers sentenced to death on 11 May 1995.

In his response Colonel Kanyarengwe asks Amnesty International to thank all those who have written to him and to inform them that the judicial procedure in the case of Captain David Rwapapa and Second Lieutenant Innocent Ngoga has not yet been exhausted and that the sentences are yet to be confirmed.

It is not known when a decision on the soldiers' appeal can be expected. After many months' delay, the judges to the Supreme Court were appointed on 12 October 1995. However, it is not clear when the court will begin functioning.

Captain David Rwapapa and Second Lieutenant Innocent Ngoga, both officers of the Rwandese Patriotic Army (RPA), were sentenced to death by a *conseil de guerre* (court martial). Amnesty International remains concerned that if these death sentences - the first passed by a military tribunal since the present government came to power - are confirmed by the Supreme Court they may herald a widespread use of the death penalty through military and civilian courts in Rwanda.

Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all cases without reservation. It considers the death penalty to be incompatible with the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The organization believes that the use of the death penalty in Rwanda would serve only to perpetuate the cycle of violence in that country by officially sanctioning the use of violence.

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

- referring to your earlier appeals on behalf of Captain David Rwapapa and Second Lieutenant Innocent Ngoga, and mentioning that Amnesty International has received a response from the Minister of the Interior (\*) stating that the legal proceedings have not been exhausted and that the death sentences have yet to be confirmed;
- urging that these death sentences be commuted;
- reiterating that Amnesty International, while it does not condone the crimes for which the soldiers were convicted, is unconditionally opposed to the death penalty on the grounds that it is a cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment which violates the right to life and which is shown to have no special deterrent effect;
- expressing the belief that the use of the death penalty will only perpetuate the cycle of violence in Rwanda by officially sanctioning the use of violence, and urging the government to refrain from applying the death penalty in all cases.

\* In letters to Colonel Kanyarengwe, thank him for his letter to Amnesty International, dated 5 October 1995.

**APPEALS TO:**

Président Pasteur Bizimungu  
Présidence de la République  
BP 15, KIGALI, Rwanda

**Faxes: + 250 83975; 84769;**

**Telexes: 22502**

**Telegrams: President Bizimungu, Kigali, Rwanda**

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

Général Major Paul Kagame  
Vice-Président de la République  
et Ministre de la Défense  
Présidence de la République  
BP 15, KIGALI, Rwanda

**Faxes: + 250 83980; 84769; 72431**

**Telexes: 22502**

**Telegrams: Vice President Kagame, Kigali, Rwanda**

**Salutation: Monsieur le Vice Président / Dear Vice President**

Colonel Alexis Kanyarengwe  
Vice-Premier Ministre et  
Ministre de l'Intérieur  
Ministère de l'Intérieur  
BP 446, KIGALI, Rwanda

**Faxes: +250 85714**

**Telegrams: Ministre de l'Interieur, Kigali, Rwanda**

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

Mme Marthe Mukamurenzi  
Ministre de la Justice  
Ministère de la Justice  
KIGALI, Rwanda

**Faxes: + 250 86509**

**Telegrams: Ministre de la Justice, Kigali, Rwanda**

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

*NOTE: You may experience difficulty in getting through to Rwanda by fax, although this has improved in recent weeks (it may still be easier via the international operator)*

**COPIES 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 12 December 1995.