

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AFR 62/19/96

22 October 1996

Further information on EXTRA 157/96 (AFR 62/16/96, 11 October 1996) - Fear of mass human rights violations

ZAIRE Members of the Tutsi ethnic group and other civilians

A number of Tutsi civilians are reported to have been arrested, apparently arbitrarily, on the morning of 22 October 1996 in residential areas of Goma, the capital of North-Kivu region. Sources in Goma town also indicate that Tutsi civilians have been heading towards the border with Rwanda, apparently in order to escape from such arrests or other human rights violations.

Arrests of civilians were reported in Goma's Virunga neighbourhood, after soldiers and civilians entered at least two households belonging to Tutsi. Further arrests were reported outside the headquarters of the Catholic parish in Goma, as Tutsi workers were leaving the compound.

The tensions in Goma are due to a number of attacks by unidentified perpetrators over the last few days, mainly in villages in the vicinity of the large refugee camps in North-Kivu and the current armed conflict between the Zaïrian army and armed Tutsi groups in South-Kivu. Speakers of Kinyarwanda, especially Tutsi, are blamed for the current unrest.

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

- acknowledging the armed conflict between the Zaïrian armed forces and members of the Tutsi ethnic group, but urging the Zaïrian government to ensure that basic rules of engagement, in particular the Geneva Conventions are respected by members of the armed forces at all times;
- noting with concern reports of arbitrary arrests of Tutsi civilians in Goma, and urging the authorities to instruct the armed forces to respect the rule of law and to ensure that no one is arbitrarily arrested or subjected to any human rights abuses, and that all suspects are transferred to the civilian Procuracy within 48 hours of their arrest, as required by Zaïrian law;
- seeking assurances that no-one will be held incommunicado, or subjected to beatings and other forms of cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, "disappearance" or extrajudicial executions.

APPEALS TO:

Prime Minister

Monsieur Léon KENGO Wa Dondo
Premier Ministre
Hôtel du Conseil Exécutif
Avenue des 3Z
Kinshasa - Gombe, ZAIRE

Faxes: + 243 88 42062

Telegrams: Premier Ministre, Kinshasa, Zaire

Salutation: Monsieur le Premier Ministre.

North-Kivu Governor

Monsieur Christophe MOTO Mupenda
Gouverneur
Région du Nord-Kivu
Hôtel de ville

Goma
République du Zaïre
Telegrams: Gouverneur Moto, Goma, Zaire
Salutation: Monsieur le Gouverneur

Armed Forces Chief of Staff
Grand amiral ELUKI Monga
Chef d'Etat-major général des
Forces armées zairoises (FAZ)
Ministère de la Défense nationale
Kinshasa-Ngaliema
République du Zaïre
Telegrams: Chef d'Etat-major, FAZ, Ministere Defense, Kinshasa, Zaire
Salutation: Monsieur le Chef d'Etat-major / Dear Chief of Staff

COPIES TO:

Minister of Justice
Monsieur Joseph Nsinga Udju
Ministre de la Justice et Garde des sceaux
Ministère de la Justice
BP 3137
Kinshasa - Gombe, ZAIRE

and to diplomatic representatives of Zaire accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 22 November 1996.