

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AFR 16/02/98

19 January 1998

Further information on EXTRA 169/97 (AFR 16/41/97, 16 December 1997) - Torture / Fear of "disappearance"

BURUNDI Etienne MVUYEKURE, Geological engineer, former Secretary General of the *Rassemblement du peuple burundais (RPB)*, Rally for Burundi People, a political opposition party

On 16 December 1997, Amnesty International expressed concern for the safety of Etienne Mvuyekure who was arrested on 1 or 2 November 1997 and to whom all access had been denied since 10 November 1997. Amnesty International, which has not yet received a response to its earlier appeal, is seriously concerned for his physical integrity.

Amnesty International has received new information that Etienne Mvuyekure was not in fact transferred to Mpimba Central Prison, as previously stated. Sources at the *bataillon para* (commando) military camp are also reported to have stated that Etienne Mvuyekure is no longer held at the camp and that he has been released. He has not been seen since.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/faxes (no mail to Burundi) in French or in your own language:

- expressing concern for the safety of Etienne Mvuyekure, arrested on 1 or 2 November 1997;
- calling on the authorities to immediately establish and make public the whereabouts of Etienne Mvuyekure;
- calling on the authorities to bring to justice, in accordance with international standards of fairness, officials who are found to have carried out or condoned human rights violations.

APPEALS TO:

President

Major Pierre BUYOYA
Président de la République
Présidence de la République

Telegrams: Major Buyoya, Bujumbura, Burundi
Faxes: + 257 22 74 90
Salutation: Monsieur le Président / Dear President

Minister of Justice

Monsieur Terence SINUNGURUZA
Ministre de la Justice et Garde des sceaux
Ministère de la Justice

Telegrams: Ministre Justice, Bujumbura, Burundi
Faxes: + 257 22 21 48
Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Dear Minister

Minister of Defence

Lieutenant-Col. Firmin SINZOYIHEBA
Ministre de la Défense Nationale
Ministère de la Défense

Telegrams: Ministre Defense, Bujumbura, Burundi
Faxes: + 257 22 56 86
Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

Prime Minister

Pascal Firmin NDIRIRA

Premier Ministre

Bujumbura, Burundi

Faxes: + 257 22 64 24

Minister for Human Rights, Institutional Reform and Relations with the National Assembly

Eugène NINDORERA

Ministre des droits de la Personne humaine, des réformes institutionnelles, et des relations avec
l'Assemblée nationale

Bujumbura, Burundi

Faxes: + 257 21 38 47

and to diplomatic representatives of Burundi accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 16 February 1998.