

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AFR 16/10/97

26 March 1997

Further information (1) on UA 75/97 (AFR 16/06/97, 19 March 1997) - Fear of ill-treatment/torture / possible prisoners of conscience and new concern: health concern

**BURUNDI Reverend Emmanuel Ndayiziga
Reverend Eliezer Ntunzwenimana
Another pastor, name not known**

The Reverend Eliezer Ntunzwenimana, who was arrested around 7 March and who is being detained at the *Brigade spéciale de recherche* (BSR), special investigation unit, has been severely ill-treated and beaten and requires hospital treatment as a result. He is reported to be unable to walk. Amnesty International fears he is at risk of further ill-treatment. Amnesty International has no information suggesting that the Reverend Ntunzwenimana has been charged with any offence.

The Reverend Ntunzwenimana and two other members of the *Union des Eglises baptistes du Burundi*, Union of Baptist Churches in Burundi, Reverend Emmanuel Ndayiziga and another unnamed pastor were arrested in early to mid March 1997 and accused of providing assistance - medical care and blankets - to members of Hutu armed groups. Amnesty International had raised concern for their physical safety after reports that they were being ill-treated at the BSR.

The Reverend Emmanuel Ndayiziga, who was arrested on 15 March 1997, was released on 19 March. He has not been charged with any offence. However, he has to report daily to the BSR. He is not known to have been tortured or ill-treated during his detention.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in French or in your own language, including some or all of the following:

- expressing concern for the safety of the Reverend Eliezer Ntunzwenimana who is being held at the detention centre of the *Brigade spéciale de recherche* (BSR) in Bujumbura where he is reported to have been badly beaten and ill-treated, and for the safety of another member of the *Union des Eglises baptistes du Burundi* also believed to be held at the BSR;
- calling on the authorities to take urgent steps to guarantee their physical safety and seeking assurances that they will be provided with immediate and adequate medical care;
- urging that they be allowed immediate access to their families and to legal counsel and representatives of humanitarian organisations;
- seeking clarification of the reasons for the arrest and continued detention of Reverend Ntunzwenimana and the other unnamed Baptist pastor;
- calling for their immediate and unconditional release if they are prisoners of conscience, imprisoned for their non-violent opinions or activities;
- welcoming the release of Reverend Ntunzwenimana and seeking clarification of the reasons for his continued reporting to the BSR;
- urging that the allegations of ill-treatment be immediately investigated and, if confirmed, that those responsible be brought to justice in accordance with international standards for fair trial;

NOTE: no mail is getting through to Burundi at present.

APPEALS TO:

Minister of Justice

Gervais RUBASHAMIHETO

Ministre de la Justice et Garde des sceaux

Fax: 257 22 2148

Telegrams: Ministre Rubashamiheto, Bujumbura, Burundi

Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre/Dear Minister

Minister of Interior

Lieutenant-Colonel Epitace BAYAKANAKANDI

Ministre de l'Intérieur

Fax : + 257 222148 / 213055

Telegrams: Ministre de l'Intérieur, Bujumbura, Burundi

Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre/Dear Minister

Procurator General

Monsieur Jean-Bosco BUTASI

Procureur Général

Fax: 257 222148

Monsieur le Procureur Général

Head of the BSR

Commandant de la Brigade spéciale de recherche

Fax: 257 22 21 48

Salutation: Monsieur le Commandant / Dear Commander

Telegram: Cmdt de la Brigade spéciale de recherche, Bujumbura, Burundi

COPIES TO:

President

Major Pierre BUYOYA

Président de la République

Fax: 257 22 7490

Telegrams: Major Buyoya, Bujumbura, Burundi

Salutation: Monsieur le Président/Dear President

Minister for Human Rights

Madame Christine RUHAZA

Ministre des Droits de la Personne

Fax: + 257 216102

Telegrams: Ministre Ruhaza, Bujumbura, Burundi

Saluation: Madame le Ministre/Dear Minister

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 7 May 1997.