

£BURUNDI

@Targeting students, teachers and clerics in the fight for supremacy

1. Introduction

The world was shocked by press reports and television pictures depicting the burning to death in October 1993 of some 70 Tutsi students from Kibimba secondary school (*lycée*) in Gitega province. The students were first severely beaten by a Hutu gang armed with machetes and other non-military weapons. The students were then herded into a room in a disused petrol station, doused with petrol and set on fire. The gang guarded the exits to prevent the victims from escaping. Few of the victims escaped: many of those who did had severe burns and other injuries.

Also in October 1993, Tutsi students from Rusengo secondary school attacked unarmed civilians in Ruyigi town, killing at least 70, including women and children. The students are reported to have received arms from a local Gendarmerie commander. The attacks and killings of Hutu in Ruyigi town by students and other Tutsi civilians continued for three days. Those killed included members of the local clergy such as a Roman Catholic priest and a seminarian, **Albert Rukarambuzi**.

Like numerous other killings of unarmed civilians before, during and after October 1993, the Burundi authorities failed to order an independent investigation of these killings. No one has been brought to justice in connection with the killings. The pervasive impunity in Burundi has served to convince other killers that they will not be held to account for their crimes. Amnesty International has continued to receive reports that students, teachers and church officials are involved in inciting and perpetrating deliberate and arbitrary killings in schools and other communal institutions.

Amnesty International is concerned that members of the Burundi security forces and armed political groups are subjecting students, teachers and church leaders to deliberate and arbitrary killings and other human rights abuses. The killings are politically-motivated and usually take place along ethnic lines between members of the majority Hutu and minority Tutsi ethnic groups. These killings appear to constitute an attempt by political extremists to destroy their opponents' ethnic group, and hence harbour an intent to commit genocide. Politicians and others fighting for political supremacy over their opponents are increasingly using schools, where the church has played a significant role for many years, to perpetrate the abuses themselves against their counterparts and others in Burundi. A number of Burundi political groups are instigating and using violence in schools and churches to destroy the capacity of their opponents to become leaders or peace-makers.

Amnesty International opposes and campaigns to stop the extrajudicial execution by government forces of unarmed and defenceless persons or incapacitated combatants, whether or not imprisoned, detained, restricted and "disappeared", whether or not the persons affected have used or advocated violence. The organization also opposes and calls for an end to deliberate and arbitrary killings by armed political groups of people who are not taking part in hostilities, such as unarmed and defenceless civilians, or soldiers who have surrendered or been incapacitated.

All armed political groups have recruited youths into their ranks, some of them uneducated, but others are pupils and students. Some members of the armed forces have provided arms, training and other assistance to armed political groups. However, neither security nor political authorities have taken any action to stop members of the security forces supporting or condoning abuses by armed groups. A culture of violence and the use of lethal military weapons has thus entered schools. The groups reportedly give drugs to the youths to diminish their capacity to question or resist killings and other abuses against innocent people. Tutsi groups include *Sans échec* ("Without Failure") and *Sans défaite* ("Without Defeat"). Tutsi leaders have formed other groups which are thought to be fronts for underground armed groups. These include *Solidarité jeunesse pour la défense des droits des minorités* (SOJEDEM), Youth Solidarity for the Defence of Minority Rights, led by Déogratias Niyonzima, a Roman Catholic Dominican Brother. Others are *Association des forces pour le salut national* (AFOSANA), Association of Forces for National Salvation, and *Front de la jeunesse patriotique* (FJP), Front for Patriotic Youth. The main Hutu armed group is the *Conseil national pour la défense de la démocratie* (CNDD), National Council for the Defence of Democracy and its armed wing, the *Forces pour la défense de la démocratie* (FDD), Forces for the Defence of Democracy, led by former government minister Leonard Nyangoma. Others are the *Parti pour la libération du peuple hutu* (PALIPEHUTU), Party for the Liberation of Hutu People, and *Front de libération nationale* (FROLINA), Front for National Liberation.

A monopoly of education, and therefore of the capacity for exercising leadership, has been at the heart of the fight for supremacy between the Hutu and Tutsi elites. This has been more evident during the current armed conflict which began with a coup attempt by the Tutsi-dominated armed forces in October 1993. As many as 100,000 people are estimated to have been killed by August 1995, about 50,000 of them in the first two months of the conflict. Many of the victims are pupils and students, or children of school age.

Members of the armed forces have particularly targeted educated Hutu under the pretext that they are linked to Hutu armed groups. They have killed many and forced many others to go into hiding or flee to exile. For example, on 14 September 1994 the security forces rounded up several hundred Hutu civilians in the suburb of Kamenge in the capital, Bujumbura. At least 13 of those rounded up for questioning in order to identify those suspected of involvement in armed opposition were taken away. Two days later, their corpses, including those of **Alexis Bandyatuyaga**, a journalist, and **Innocent Sindayihebura**, a doctor, were found near Bujumbura international airport. Others "disappeared" and they too are thought to have been extrajudicially executed. Appeals by Amnesty International and a local human rights group for action by the military authorities to investigate the killings and "disappearances" have remained unheeded.

Traditionally, Hutu and Tutsi have lived together and often intermarried. Since October 1993, however, the two ethnic groups have increasingly lived in mutually hostile areas, as armed gangs from each group "ethnically cleanse" the other group from areas they dominate. Attacks by the armed forces and armed Tutsi gangs have driven Hutu civilians away from towns into the countryside (where they are known as "dispersed" population with virtually no access to humanitarian assistance or medical services) or into exile in neighbouring countries. For example, Hutu have been driven from all but two Bujumbura suburbs, Kamenge and Kinama. The two suburbs have also been "ethnically cleansed" of Tutsi residents. Repeated clashes between Hutu armed gangs and the army have forced many Hutu civilians to flee from Kamenge and Kinama. Extrajudicial executions and deliberate and arbitrary killings of unarmed civilians -- particularly the old, women and children who are unable to flee in time -- are usually carried out during and after the clashes, alongside the destruction of property, looting and house burning by soldiers and Tutsi gangs. Hutu armed gangs have in turn carried out attacks against Tutsi civilians (often living as "displaced" as opposed to "dispersed" population) in and around towns and military installations. This phenomenon is prevalent in virtually the whole country, including schools.

Amnesty International is publishing this report to highlight the escalation of politically-motivated killings and other human rights abuses against students and educators since October 1993. The organization is calling for international action to bring an end to the abuses, particularly extrajudicial executions by the security forces and deliberate and arbitrary killings by armed political groups. Amnesty International hopes that people receiving this report, particularly students, teachers and religious persons, will express revulsion at the abuses. They should demand that their counterparts and those in positions of responsibility in Burundi take steps to ensure that schools and churches remain free of discrimination, tensions and politically-motivated ethnic violence. Schools and churches should become places where a nucleus for peace and reconciliation can be developed and, from there, permeate the whole Burundi society.

2. Background

The targeting of students and the educated in Burundi is as old as the periodic massacres in Burundi which began 30 years ago. When Hutu members of the armed forces attempted to overthrow a Tutsi-dominated government in 1965, Tutsi members of the armed forces targeted elite Hutu in all sectors of Burundi public life, killing thousands. The most widespread massacre occurred in 1972 when members of the armed forces and Tutsi civilians hunted down Hutu in institutions of learning or who occupied key positions in all sectors of public life. More than 80,000 people, most of them Hutu, are estimated to have been killed. During and after the massacres many of the Hutu survivors of all ages fled the country, mainly to neighbouring Francophone countries, particularly Rwanda and Zaïre where some continued their education. As a result many of the Hutu who in mid-1993 contested and won the first multi-party general elections in more than 30 years and formed a Hutu-led government had received their education outside Burundi.

The massacres, particularly those in 1972, discouraged many Hutu parents from sending their children to school which they perceived as death traps. This made education as well as key jobs in both the public and private sectors a preserve of the educated Tutsi elite. Recruitment of Hutu into the security forces, particularly the officer corps which comprises many well-educated Tutsi, was severely restricted. The few Hutu who obtained some formal education were denied the opportunity to continue their studies. For example, in many cases examination answer sheets were marked to indicate the ethnic group of the candidates so that most of the Hutu students would be failed or not selected for higher education.

The church, particularly the Roman Catholic church, intervened to give informal education to Hutu children during catechism classes, known locally as *Yagamukama*. This appears to have been partly responsible for the persecution of the Roman Catholic church during the 1980s when former President Jean-Baptiste Bagaza was in power. The persecution was characterized by imprisonment of priests and lay church officials as prisoners of conscience, nationalization of schools run by the church, severe restrictions on church activities and expulsion of hundreds of missionaries from Burundi. International concern about the persecution of the church is thought to have been largely responsible for the overthrow in September 1987 of President Bagaza. Former President Bagaza returned to Burundi in mid-1993 following a general amnesty declared by then President Melchior Ndadaye's government. Jean-Baptiste Bagaza now leads the *Parti de rénovation nationale* (PARENA), National Recovery Party. Opponents of PARENA have accused it of being linked to Tutsi armed groups: PARENA has denied this.

After massacres¹ in August 1988 the government of former President Pierre Buyoya who came to power

¹In mid-August 1988 intercommunal killings involving the Hutu and Tutsi broke out in the northern provinces of Ngozi and Kirundo. Government troops brought in to quell the violence carried out systematic reprisals against unarmed Hutu civilians. The government said 5,000 people were killed and implied that most of the victims were Tutsi killed by Hutu. Other

in September 1987 introduced reforms, including an official acknowledgement for the first time that Hutu were being discriminated against. The government then sought to remove the discrimination against Hutu children. The government introduced a more transparent system of marking examinations, publishing results and selecting successful candidates for further education. More Hutu were appointed as government ministers. Other reforms such as recruitment of more Hutu into the armed forces were never fully implemented. The attempt by the Hutu-dominated government which came to power in July 1993 to implement these and other reforms, including an ethnic balance in the security forces and the public service, was opposed by those responsible for the October 1993 coup attempt and the assassination of President Melchior Ndadaye and other top government officials.

3. Killings and other attacks on students

Tutsi students have used weapons acquired from members of the security forces and armed political groups to intimidate, injure and kill their unarmed Hutu colleagues. Members of the security forces have rarely tried to prevent these abuses: indeed they have often condoned or participated in them. Little or no action has been taken by government authorities against the students.

On 1 March 1994 Tutsi students at Musenyi secondary school in Ngonzi province's Tangara district (*commune*) barred about 20 of their Hutu colleagues from returning to the school which had just reopened. The school, like many others around the country, had been closed since the October 1993 coup attempt. During a night-time knife attack, one Hutu student was killed and three were injured. In what appeared to be a reprisal attack on 7 March, Hutu civilians from nearby Musakazi village (*colline*) killed a Tutsi student using machetes and clubs. Residents of Musakazi subsequently fled to the neighbouring district of Kiremba, apparently to evade reprisals.

At least 15 unarmed Hutu students were killed and 13 injured on 4 June 1994 during an attack by Tutsi students at Burengo secondary school. At around 9 pm a grenade was hurled into a dormitory housing Hutu students. Two were burned to death and 13 were killed with iron bars and knives while trying to flee the attack. Two hours earlier, the school's director and two other persons narrowly survived an attack by about 10 Tutsi students who lay in wait near the director's residence. The following day the army Chief of Staff, Colonel Jean Bikomagu, and other security and government officials visited the school to inquire about the incident. Fourteen of the 41 students who had been arrested by the judicial police were subsequently transferred to Ngozi prison. It is unclear whether they are still being held or whether they have been charged with any offences. Others, including the student leader, were released. The school was also visited by then Prime Minister Anatole Kanyenkiko and other officials. The Prime Minister reportedly instructed the school authorities to help Hutu students return to the school. A local human rights group reported in September 1994 that the violence was being instigated by outsiders, and that Tutsi students refused to submit to authority. The group added that the impunity enjoyed by displaced persons from nearby Kyegwa camp who had been involved in killings of unarmed civilians was encouraging Tutsi students to perpetrate violence.

One person was killed and 44 injured when on 3 March 1995 a grenade was thrown in Rugari secondary school in Muyinga province. According to the school's director, Bernard Ndikumana, the attack occurred after more than 500 Hutu students had fled to neighbouring Tanzania on 17 February 1995. The students reportedly fled fearing attacks by soldiers. The army was reportedly carrying out an operation which it claimed was intended to flush out members of PALIPEHUTU who had attacked nearby Giteranyi military post, killing one soldier and injuring several more.

sources said up to 20,000 people were killed, most of them Hutu extrajudicially executed by government forces.

Armed political groups are targeting individuals and groups working to reduce tensions and bring about peaceful co-existence in Burundi. Students and teachers have been some of those targeted for killing and other abuses. For example, four persons, including at least two students, one Hutu and one Tutsi, attending a party at Holy Spirit secondary school (*lycée du Saint Esprit*) in Bujumbura were shot dead on 11 June 1995. Five other persons were injured, one seriously. The party, which brought together former and current students of the college and their parents, had been organized to demonstrate that Hutu and Tutsi could and should live together. At around 5 pm, while the party was coming to an end, a gunman travelling in a vehicle forced his way into the college compound and shot the four young men. The gunman escaped. A Hutu former student, **Alain Miyamitwe**, inquiring about what had occurred was surrounded and severely beaten by *Sans echec* militia who threatened to kill him. The militia also beat two Belgian members of the college's staff, **Brother Bob Albertijn**, the director, and **Brother Alphonse Jacob**. Brother Albertijn was accused of sheltering Hutu armed gangs. One youth threatened to kill him if he did not give him money, which he did. Gendarmes arrived moments later firing in the air. Some students led the Belgians away to safety in a Convent.

Alain Miyamitwe tried to escape but gendarmes soon found him hiding in a toilet. He came out with hands in the air and bleeding. He was arrested by the gendarmes, but is reported to have been subsequently released.

The same day, the violence at the Holy spirit secondary school sparked off the killing of at least 15 unarmed Hutu students by their Tutsi colleagues at the nearby University of Burundi in Bujumbura. The violence began when a Hutu student, **Alexis Ndayisaba**, reportedly returning from a visit was attacked by stone-throwing Tutsi youths at a petrol station. Alexis Ndayisaba was injured on the head. On arrival at the university's Mutanga campus he was reportedly surrounded by Tutsi students who asked him to explain how he had been injured. They accused him of involvement in the killing of several students at the Holy Spirit secondary school. Soldiers guarding the campus joined the students to interrogate Alexis Ndayisaba. The students then took him to the University's Social Services building.

Towards 10 pm Tutsi students attacked and forced their Hutu colleagues to flee from the university. In the presence of soldiers, at least two Tutsi students at the Social Services building reportedly used knives to kill one Hutu student, **Gordien Rurumuziko**. Towards mid-night some soldiers tried to take Alexis Ndayisaba to the *Brigade spéciale de recherche* (BSR), Special Investigation Brigade, a branch of the Gendarmerie, but Tutsi students blocked their way. At around mid-night Alexis Ndayisaba was killed by the students using knives and iron bars. Tutsi students then went on the rampage attacking their Hutu colleagues using non-military weapons such as machetes and knives, firearms and grenades. Some of the Hutu students were taken to Bujumbura's Nyakabiga suburb, a Tutsi stronghold, where they were killed and apparently buried in a mass grave. Some bodies of the victims were reportedly found in nearby Ntakangwa river. Others who refused to go to Nyakabiga were killed at the campus. At least 15 Hutu students were killed. Some sources in Burundi have said that as many as 98 Hutu students were killed. These killings led to the flight of all Hutu students from the University and apparently none of them had returned by the end of August.

Nine days later, on 21 June, an armed gang thought to comprise Tutsi students killed the Hutu director of research and lecturer, **Stanislas Ruzenza**, in his office at the university. His killing appears to be part of a campaign to remove all Hutu from the university. Some sources in Burundi said that he may have been targeted because he had been asked by the authorities to convince Hutu students to return to the University. No one is known to have been formally identified in connection with the director's assassination.

In what appeared to be a reprisal attack a Hutu armed gang, apparently including Hutu students who had fled from the university, attacked Mutanga campus, killing four unarmed Tutsi students and injuring two.

Six Tutsi students were reported to be missing after the attack. The following day, a Hutu armed gang killed four students and two university employees and injured four, all of them unarmed Tutsi, at Kiriri university campus. Two of the attackers were also reportedly killed. On 23 July the armed forces launched an operation and used helicopters to hunt for the Hutu attackers. Hutu living in villages around the university fled and houses were set on fire by soldiers and Tutsi armed gangs. This contrasted with the lack of action to prevent killings of Hutu students by their Tutsi colleagues. These killings were condemned by the director of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Federico Mayor. On 24 July the University authorities declared a week of mourning for the dead students. The following day a Tutsi armed gang attacked a bus in Bujumbura and killed 10 people and injured 15 in what was suspected to be a revenge for the killing of Tutsi students.

End of primary school examinations brought attacks on schools to a new peak in mid-July 1995. Much of the violence appears to have been carried out by Hutu armed gangs trying to stop examinations from taking place. Most Hutu pupils and students had been forced out of school by military operations or attacks by Tutsi armed gangs. Hence, most Hutu pupils were unable to prepare for or sit the examinations. The Ministry of Education reportedly acknowledged that at least 25 per cent of pupils and students had abandoned school since October 1993. Radio Burundi announced on 20 July that there had been a significant absence of pupils in the Bujumbura suburbs of Gasenyi and Kanyosha from which large numbers of Hutu had recently fled. This phenomenon appears to have occurred in numerous other areas around the country.

On 15 July two grenades were hurled into the compound of Cibitoke secondary school, injuring 20 students. The authorities were forced to postpone examinations to 20 July in order to ensure the security for pupils and examiners. On the day the examinations began, a Hutu armed gang reportedly attacked a convoy of examiners near Muramvya, 40 kilometres east of Bujumbura. The authorities reportedly said that soldiers escorting the convoy killed two of the attackers, but did not indicate whether the convoy had sustained any casualties.

4. Killings and other attacks on church officials and worshippers

Roman Catholic priests, bishops and other church leaders, particularly Hutu, have been targeted by gunmen who are believed to be members of the Tutsi armed groups. They appear to be targeted because of their influential role within the Hutu community.

On 4 September 1994 more than 70 people were killed, at least three of them inside Muramba Roman Catholic church, Buhinyuza district, when **Bishop Jean-Berchmans Nterere** of Muyinga diocese was celebrating mass. Gunmen opened fire inside the church killing at least three persons. Sources in Burundi said that the gunmen had intended to kill the bishop who escaped unhurt. In a nearby market, at least 70 people were killed by attackers who used knives, machetes, firearms and other weapons. Those who tried to hide in a nearby tree plantation were forced out when the attackers set it on fire.

Bishop Simon Ntamwana of Bujumbura and his relatives have been targeted by Tutsi armed gangs because of his role in the Roman Catholic church and his condemnation of indiscriminate violence against innocent civilians. On one occasion, a Tutsi gang killed about 20 people, including at least seven members of his family, in his home area, Mukenke, in Kirundo province's Bwambarangwe district, on 21 November 1994. Armed men first went to the home of his sister, **Generose Ntamwana**, but failed to find her. The gunmen then proceeded to the home of his brother, **Laurent Ntamwana**, killing him, his wife and five children, and another young boy. The killers set fire to his house. On the same night, the gunmen killed 12 other people at nearby Mukenke trading centre. Soldiers at a nearby school did not intervene.

On 17 February Bishop Ntamwana reportedly escaped an assassination attempt near his residence in

Bujumbura. On his return from a week-long seminar for priests, he found a red car parked near his home and a motorcyclist who appeared to be lying in wait. As he approached his drive-way, the motorcyclist followed him. When challenged by a member of the bishop's staff, the motorcyclist fled in the waiting car. Both the car and the motorcycle had apparently been seen near the house one week earlier. Also a week before the incident, a tract had reportedly been published in Bujumbura criticizing Bishop Ntamwana for trying to play a mediating role between parties to the Burundi conflict, and for a pastoral letter calling for an end to the violence published in January 1995 by the Burundi bishop's conference. About one month later, on 11 March 1995, his brother-in-law, **Ernest Kabushemeye** who was a government minister and leader of a political party, was gunned down in broad daylight. Two persons were arrested in connection with his death but it remains unclear whether they were formally charged with his murder.

On 7 July 1995 **Father Anastase Bivugure**, the parish priest of Cibitoke, in Bubanza diocese, and five other persons were killed by a Tutsi armed gang near a military post. Several months earlier, the parish priest of Ntega parish, **Father Zacharie Nduwimana**, had been killed in Muyinga province. On 13 July 1995, one priest was severely injured and two others and a nun were hurt when gunmen opened fire on their vehicle on their way to Kanyosha seminary, on the outskirts of Bujumbura.

Commando soldiers known as *bérets verts* (green berets) killed several dozen people when on 1 July 1995 they opened fire on the compound and surroundings of Mabayi parish church in Cibitoke province. Displaced people in a nearby camp fled into the hills and were pursued by soldiers who looted and burned houses. Some of the victims, including a woman and baby, were killed with bayonets. An old man, **Ntawuyankira**, was killed with hammer blows to the face. Soldiers also killed the parish's cook, **Désiré Habonimana**. People at a nearby trading centre were killed and thrown into Nyamagana river. At least 21 bodies, including 14 of Rwandese refugees, were subsequently recovered from the river. The soldiers accused church officials of sheltering and feeding Hutu armed gangs who attacked soldiers. Members of PALIPEHUTU are reported to have previously carried out ambushes against soldiers in the area.

5. Violence continues unabated

Attacks against educated Hutu and Tutsi, particularly government officials, were still being reported during August 1995. Those killed included **Damien Ndabasambije**, an official of the Burundi central bank, who was shot dead on 18 August. **Father Michel Sinankwa**, a Hutu Raman Catholic priest was shot dead on 21 August in the compound of a Convent in Bujumbura's Ngagara suburb by unidentified gunmen who reportedly fled with his car. Leaders of Tutsi armed groups were reported to be exercising pressure on Tutsi youths, including students, to participate in violence against the Hutu. There were reports that students who fled from the University of Burundi were joining the ranks of Hutu armed groups, particularly the CNDD. If there is no action from the outside world to show solidarity with victims of human rights abuses and put pressure on those responsible for human rights abuses, particularly extrajudicial executions and deliberate and arbitrary killings, prospects for an end to the violence will remain distant. Extremist political leaders appear bent on using violence to achieve their political aims, regardless of the high cost in human life.

The public worldwide needs to make our voice heard to remind the Burundi authorities that they are responsible for the safety of members of the academic, clerical and other communities and that they have an obligation to stop these human rights abuses.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP STOP HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES AGAINST STUDENTS, ACADEMICS AND RELIGIOUS PEOPLE IN BURUNDI

STUDENT / ACADEMIC NETWORKS

Letter-writing

Amnesty International is calling on all those involved in education work to carry out letter-writing and other activities appealing for an end to human rights abuses in schools and universities. Request friends and colleagues to join in this campaign.

We suggest you use your youth/student networks as well as your teacher/academic ones to obtain the largest possible number of letters to the Burundi authorities to let them know that the international community is monitoring the human rights violations targeting the student and academic communities.

You can also contact teachers' and students' unions in your country to mobilise their membership to take part in a campaign to protect their counterparts in Burundi.

RELIGIOUS NETWORKS

Letter-writing

Religious personalities and religious followers should be called upon to write to the Burundi authorities for the same purposes.

These appeals should not be limited to the Roman Catholic and other Christian churches. Leaders and followers of other denominations/faiths are also encouraged to show solidarity. Religious networks should therefore be involved as widely as possible to increase the number of letters. Form-letters or petitions can be prepared and distributed at religious gatherings in order to involve a larger audience.

Please send airmail letters/faxes/telegrams in French, English or Kiswahili to:

A. Burundi government authorities:

- expressing deep concern at continuing reports of killings and other human rights abuses of which students, educators and church personalities are currently victims; you can illustrate your point with the following cases:

- for the student/academic audience: Alexis Ndayisaba and Stanislas Ruzenza, see page 7.
- for the religious audience: Father Anastase Bivugure and Father Zacharie Nduwimana, see page 9.

- asking to be informed what steps have been taken to identify and bring to justice those responsible for these abuses;

- appealing to the authorities to suspend from military or police duties the members of the security forces undergoing investigation regarding their implication into such killings; appealing to the authorities to take measures to prevent these grave abuses and protect all those at risk, regardless of their political or ethnic affiliation;

- asking that the authorities set up an independent and impartial body to monitor and investigate human

rights abuses against students, educators and church personalities and to make recommendations on action required in connection with the abuses.

Addresses

1. Head of State

Son Excellence
Monsieur Sylvestre NTIBANTUNGANYA
Président de la République
Présidence de la République
BP 1870
Bujumbura
République du Burundi

Fax: 257 22 7490

2. Prime Minister

Monsieur Antoine NDUWAYO
Premier Ministre
Présidence de la République
BP 2800
Bujumbura
République du Burundi

Fax: 257 22 64 24

B. Burundi political party leaders:

- expressing concern that political parties and associations have condoned or incited political killings and other human rights abuses by and against students, teachers and church officials;
- asking the political leaders to condemn such violence and to publicly dissociate themselves from individuals or groups who carry out the abuses, and from any literature published by these groups to incite violence;
- asking them to inform you of what measures they have taken to discourage politically-motivated ethnic violence by and against students, teachers and church leaders;
- asking them to cooperate with the authorities to ban groups which advocate violence and to ensure that those responsible are identified and brought to justice in accordance with international standards for fair trial.

Addresses

1. President of FRODEBU

Docteur Jean MINANI
Président

Front pour la Démocratie au Burundi
(FRODEBU)
BP 4109
Bujumbura
République du Burundi

2. President UPRONA

Monsieur Charles MUKASI
Président de l'Union pour
le progrès national (UPRONA)
Maison de l'UPRONA
BP 1810
Bujumbura
République du Burundi
Fax: 23 66 17
Tlx: 5057

C. Heads of the security forces:

- expressing concern that members of the security forces are reported to have assisted or condoned politically-motivated ethnic killings, by or against students, teachers, church leaders and others; you can again use the examples of Alexis Ndayisaba, Stanislas Ruzenza Father Anastase Bivugure and Father Zacharie Nduwimana (see A above);
- asking to be informed of what steps have been taken to ensure that members of the security force for which the official is responsible do not perpetrate or condone human rights abuses against students, teachers and church officials, or anyone else, and that those who do are brought to justice;
- requesting that the security forces cooperate with judicial and other officials to prevent and investigate human rights abuses against students, teachers and church officials, as well as others;
- asking the official to ensure that students, teachers, church officials and others who are at risk of being killed or subjected to any other form human rights abuse are given adequate protection by the security forces, regardless of their political or ethnic affiliation.

Addresses:

1. Armed Forces Chief of Staff

Colonel Jean BIKOMAGU
Chef de l'Etat-major général des
Forces armées
Etat-major général des Forces armées
Ministère de la Défense nationale
Bujumbura
République du Burundi
Fax: 257 22 21 48

2. Gendarmerie Chief of Staff

Colonel Pascal SIMBANDUKU
Chef de l'Etat-major général
de la gendarmerie
Etat-major général de la Gendarmerie
Ministère de la Défense nationale
Bujumbura
République du Burundi

3. Head of security service

Monsieur Audifax NDAYITOREYE
Administrateur général
Documentation nationale
Présidence de la République
Bujumbura
République du Burundi
Fax: 257 21 1395

PUBLICITY WORK

The scale of human rights abuses against the student/academic and the church communities warrants international media attention. If you are able to organise a public event around the issue - using either student-academic or religious networks - you will enhance chances of media coverage and publicity.

Articles can be submitted to local and national media, as well as to student's or teacher's newspapers and religious media.

Masses and other religious gatherings can be appropriate occasions to distribute information leaflets on the human rights situation in Burundi. Ask your local church official to draw the attention of the congregation to the human rights violations by and against students and clerics in Burundi and ask the congregation to participate in sending appeals to Burundi.

LOBBYING HOME GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

Give a copy of this report to local or national government officials in your country and urge them to consider what role they can play in preventing further human rights abuses in Burundi.

FURTHER ACTION:

If you receive a reply from Burundi, send it to the Amnesty International Section or group nearest to you, or to Amnesty International's International Secretariat in London. Please approach the Amnesty International Section or group in your country, or write to the Central Africa Team at Amnesty International's International Secretariat if you would like to undertake further action. They can provide you with more addresses and recommendations for further action.