

BURUNDI Detainees in detention centres in Gitega Province, and

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|----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Speciose Butore (f) | } reportedly extrajudicially executed |
| Didace Bukoru | } |
| Jean Ndabagamyé | } |
| Karidou Mugabonihera | } |
| Anaclet Bambara | } |
| Bigirimana | } |

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of detainees in local detention centres (*cachots communaux*) in Gitega Province after receiving reports that six detainees have been extrajudicially executed during the last two weeks.

Speciose Butore, Didace Bukoru, Jean Ndabagamyé, Karidou Mugabonihera and Anaclet Bambara are reported to have been extrajudicially executed on 1 July 1998 in a detention cell in Rwisabi zone, Mutaho commune, Gitega province. They were arrested by local administration officials on or around 26 June in Nyabisaka *colline* (administrative unit), Gitega Province and accused of collaboration with armed groups.

On or around 30 June 1998 another detainee, Bigirimana, who was arrested on 21 May, is reported to have been killed in a communal cell in Bukirasazi commune, Gitega province. The reason for his arrest is not known.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

More than 9,000 civilians, mostly Hutu, are held in various prisons and detention centres around Burundi. The majority are held without charge or trial, and many arrests take place on the basis of denunciation. Torture and ill-treatment of detainees is routine, particularly in the early stages of detention. Detainees accused of participation in or collaboration with armed groups are routinely tortured, often to extract information or a confession.

Amnesty International has documented numerous cases of "disappearance", torture or death in custody in Burundi. Over 260 death sentences have been passed after unfair trials and six people were executed in July 1997.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please note that post may not be functioning to Burundi. Please check with you post office before sending express/airmail letters. Please send telegrams or faxes in French or your own language:

- expressing concern that Speciose Butore, Didace Bukoru, Jean Ndabagamyé, Karidou Mugabonihera and Anaclet Bambara were reportedly extrajudicially executed on 1 July in Rwisabi zone, Mutaho commune, Gitega province and Bigirimana in Bukirasazi commune, Gitega province on or around 30 June;
- urging that the reports be immediately investigated and the whereabouts of the six people be established and made public;
- urging that, if the reports are found to be true, anyone found to have committed or condoned a human rights violation be arrested and brought to justice in accordance with international standards for fairness;
- urging that immediate steps be taken to ensure the safety of other detainees;
- urging that immediate access be granted to humanitarian and human rights organizations to all places of detention.

APPEALS TO: (Please note that faxes may only work intermittently. Please keep trying.)

Minister of Justice

Monsieur Terence Sinunguruza
Ministre de la Justice et Garde des sceaux
Ministère de la Justice
Bujumbura, Burundi

Fax: + 257 22 21 48

Telegrams: Ministre Justice, Bujumbura, Burundi

Salutation : Monsieur le Ministre

Minister of Interior and Public Security

Colonel Ascension Twagiramungu
Ministre de l'Intérieur et de la Sécurité Publique
Ministère de l'Intérieur

Bujumbura
République du Burundi

Fax: 257 22 19 82

Telegrams: Colonel Twagiramungu, Bujumbura, Burundi

Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre

Governor of Gitega Province

Gouverneur de la Province de Gitega
Hôtel de ville
Gitega, Burundi

Telegrams: Gouverneur de la Province, Gitega, Burundi

Salutation: Monsieur le Gouverneur

COPIES TO:

Minister for Human Rights

Monsieur Eugène NINDORERA
Ministre des Droits de la Personne humaine, des Réformes institutionnelles et des Relations avec
l'Assemblée nationale
BP 6802
Bujumbura, Burundi

Telegram: Ministre Droits de la Personne, Bujumbura, Burundi

Fax: + 257 21 38 47

Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre

Monsieur Déo Suzuguye

Directeur Général de l'administration pénitentiaire
c/o Ministry of Justice (see above)

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 19 August 1998.