

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 443/91 (AFR 47/16/91, 16 December 1991 and AFR 47/01/92, 2 January 1992) - Legal concern

Rwanda: Jean-Pierre Mugabe, Editor-in-Chief of Le Tribun du peuple newspaper
and (not in detention)

Adrien Rangira) journalists of Kanguka newspaper
Obed Bazimaziki)

Antoine Mbarushimana, journalist of Le Soleil newspaper

Théoneste Muberantwari, Editor-in-Chief of Nyabarongo newspaper

Vincent Shabakaka, director of Kaberinka newspaper

Théotime Kamanayo, journalist of Kaberinka newspaper

André Kameya, director of Rwanda Rushya newspaper

Edouard Mutsinzi, journalist of Le messenger (Intumwa) newspaper

At the end of December Amnesty International received reports that the above-mentioned journalists were no longer threatened with arrest (see previous UA 443/91). However, Amnesty International has since learned that Jean-Pierre Mugabe, Editor-in-Chief of Le Tribun du peuple newspaper, was arrested on 31 December 1991 in the capital, Kigali, by plain clothes security men after a press conference addressed by opposition parties. He was interrogated and released on 1 January 1992 and ordered by the Procurator General of the Tribunal de première instance, High Court, in Kigali to return to the Procuracy on 2 January. When he returned there he was again interrogated about cartoons and articles about President Juvénal Habyarimana published by Le Tribun du peuple and subsequently taken to Kigali central prison where he is still being held. He was accused of insulting the Head of State but it is unclear whether he has been charged with any offence. Amnesty International is still making inquiries to establish whether the other nine journalists mentioned above are still threatened with arrest.

Jean-Pierre Mugabe appears to be a prisoner of conscience held because he exercised his right to the freedom of expression as required by his profession.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: telexes/telegrams/faxes/express and airmail letters

- expressing concern at reports that Jean-Pierre Mugabe is detained without charge or trial apparently because his newspaper published articles which displeased the authorities;

- inquiring whether the other nine journalists are still being threatened with arrest and whether those who were arrested in December 1991 have charges pending against them;

- inquiring whether arrest warrants have been issued in respect of any other journalists;

- urging the authorities to release Jean-Pierre Mugabe without undue delay or, if he has been charged with a cognizably criminal offence, to ensure that he is promptly given a fair trial;

- seeking assurances that journalists and other people in Rwanda are not arrested in future solely because they exercised their fundamental rights, such as the freedom of expression and association.

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APPEALS TO:

1) Prime Minister:

Monsieur Sylvestre NZANZIMANA

Présidence de la République

BP 15 Kigali, République rwandaise

Ministère de la Justice

BP 160, Kigali, République rwandaise

Telegrams: Premier Ministre, Kigali, Rwanda

Telexes: 22502

Faxes: + 250 74583

Salutation: Monsieur le Premier Ministre / Dear Prime Minister

2) Minister of Justice

Mathieu Mgirumpatse

Ministre de la Justice

Ministère de la Justice

BP 160, Kigali, République rwandaise

Telegrams: Ministre Justice, Kigali, Rwanda

Telexes: 22517

Faxes: + 250 72902 or + 250 72904

Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Dear Minister

3) Minister of Defence and Security:

Le Colonel Augustin NDINDILYIMAN

Ministre de la Défense et la Sécurité

BP 15, Kigali, République rwandaise

Telegrams: Ministre Defense et Securite, Kigali, Rwanda

Telexes: 22517

Faxes: + 250 74583

Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Dear Minister

COPIES TO AT LEAST TWO OF THE FOLLOWING:

Minister of Foreign Affairs:

Monsieur le Docteur Casimir BIZIMUNGU

Ministre des Affaires étrangères

et de la coopération

Ministère des Affaires étrangères

BP 179, Kigali, République Rwandaise

Faxes: +250 72902 or +250 72904

Secretary General of the National Security Service:

Monsieur Donat HAKIZIMANA

Secrétaire général

Service central de renseignements (SCR)
BP 125, Kigali, République rwandaise

and the following newspapers:

- Monsieur le Rédacteur-en-Chef, Kinyamateka, BP 761, Kigali, République rwandaise
- Monsieur le Rédacteur-en-Chef, La Relève, Office rwandaise d'information, BP 83, Kigali, République rwandaise
- Monsieur le Rédacteur-en-Chef, Isibo, Bureau central, BP 2258, Kigali, République rwandaise
- Monsieur le Rédacteur-en-Chef, Le Tribun du Peuple, BP 2314, Kigali, République rwandaise

and to diplomatic representatives of Rwanda in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat or your section office, if sending appeals after 23 February 1992.