

PUBLIC

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Further information on UA 315/99 (AFR 47/21/99, 7 December 1999) and follow-up (AFR 47/03/00, 3 February 2000) - "Disappearance"

RWANDA Edouard Mpabuka, peasant, aged 28

Amnesty International has sought and received independent confirmation that Edouard Mpabuka, reported "disappeared" on 8 November 1999, is being held in pre-trial detention in Gisenyi central prison, accused of participation in the 1994 genocide.

A letter to Urgent Action network members from the Rwandese Minister of Justice, Jean de Dieu Mucyo, had described how Edouard Mpabuka had been found after an official investigation prompted by their appeals.

Edouard Mpabuka was interviewed recently in Gisenyi hospital, where he has been since 26 November 1999, receiving treatment for a leg injury. He was able to confirm that he had been held in Gisenyi *brigade* (gendarmerie detention centre) between 8 and 16 November. However, his family had not been told that he was there, and this gave rise to fears for his safety.

Edouard Mpabuka was arrested in October 1998, released without trial on 15 October 1999, but rearrested three days later and held in the *cachot communal* (local detention centre) in Giciye. On 8 November he was taken to the Gisenyi *brigade* and eight days later transferred to Gisenyi central prison. The prison director informed his family that Edouard Mpabuka had arrived there, and his family is now able to visit him in hospital.

Amnesty International is heartened by the positive outcome to this case and welcomes the Ministry of Justice investigation which was prompted by the appeals of Amnesty International members.

Thanks to all those who took action. No further appeals should be sent.