

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AFR 47/09/92

UA 84/92

Possible extrajudicial Executions

Distr: UA/SC

11 March 1992

Rwanda: **Antonia Locatelli (female), Italian missionary
(and at least 35 members of the Tutsi ethnic group
killed by Hutu vigilantes)**

Amnesty International has received reports that the above-named 55-year-old missionary was shot dead at Nyamata Roman Catholic church parish by a member of the Rwandese security forces on the night of 9 March 1992. She is reported to have been killed while trying to assist thousands of members of the Tutsi ethnic group who are fleeing violent attacks in Kanzenze *commune* (district), Bugesera *Sous-préfecture* (administrative sub-region) in Kigali *préfecture* (administrative region) by members of the majority Hutu ethnic group. The authorities are not known to have taken any action against the soldier responsible for killing her.

At least 35 Tutsi are reported to have been killed and many others injured in Kanzenze during the past week by Hutu gangs. The gangs are reported to have burned houses and destroyed other property belonging to the Tutsi. The violence is reported to be continuing and to have spread to other parts of Rwanda, including Kanzenze's neighbouring *communes* of Gashora and Ngenda, as well as the northwestern region of Gisenyi.

Several thousand Tutsi in the area have fled to nearby Nyamata Roman Catholic Church parish which is reported to have been surrounded by members of the security forces. It has been reported that the soldiers have been preventing Tutsi from fleeing to the parish and that it is in these circumstances that the missionary was killed. The government has declared a dusk-to-dawn curfew in the area and dozens of Hutu attackers are reported to have been arrested. However, it is not clear what other measures have been taken to bring an end to the violence and bring those responsible to justice.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Sources from the capital, Kigali, say that the recent violence against the Tutsi started after state-controlled Radio Rwanda broadcast what it said was the text of a tract on 4 March 1992, claiming that the armed rebel group known as the *Front patriotique rwandais* (FPR), Rwandese Patriotic Front, was planning to assassinate prominent Hutu politicians and that it had the support of the opposition party known as the *Parti libéral* (PL), Liberal Party. The radio broadcast is reported to have hinted that the Hutu should defend themselves against the enemy. Many Hutu accuse Tutsi of supporting the FPR and the Tutsi are thus regarded as a "fifth column" or the enemy. During the violence Hutu gangs appear to have used the broadcast as a pretext to attack the Tutsi. Since the guerrilla war started in October 1990 several thousand Tutsi have been killed by Hutu vigilantes and members of the security forces. Previous attacks of this sort occurred in late 1990 and in 1991.

In October 1991 the brother of the president of the PL was shot dead at his home in Kigali in suspicious circumstances and there has been speculation that his death was part of a campaign against the PL, which advocates negotiation between the FPR and the government and ethnic reconciliation. The PL is reported to have significant support among the Tutsi in Kanzenze *commune*. The FPR, which started a guerrilla war against the Hutu-dominated Rwandese Government from bases in neighbouring Uganda in October 1990, is mainly composed

of Tutsi.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters in FRENCH, if possible:

- expressing concern at reports that Antonia Locatelli, an Italian missionary, was shot dead at Nyamata parish on 9 March 1992 by a government soldier and asking which steps have been taken to investigate the incident and bring those responsible to justice;
- welcoming reports that the Rwandese authorities have taken some measures to stop the violence in Kanzenze commune , but expressing concern that a tract which clearly incited violence against the Tutsi was broadcast on the state radio;
- expressing concern that the authorities have so far failed to carry out independent and impartial investigations into reports that several thousand Tutsi have been killed by Hutu groups and members of the security forces, especially in northern Rwanda, since October 1990, in order to identify those responsible and to bring them to justice, and expressing concern that this appears to have been interpreted by those responsible for the recent violence in Kanzenze district to mean that they can continue to persecute and kill members of the Tutsi ethnic group with impunity;
- requesting the authorities to urgently set up an independent and impartial commission of inquiry to investigate the killing of the Italian missionary, and the violence against, and killing of Tutsi in Kanzenze district and other parts of Rwanda since the beginning of March 1992, in order to bring those responsible to justice. Urging that the commission makes recommendations to the government on how such violence and killings can be avoided in future;
- requesting the authorities to issue public instructions to all members of the public and the security forces that human rights violations, in particular the persecution or killing of people on account of their Tutsi origin, are a criminal offence and that those responsible will be brought to justice.

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

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

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

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:

- M. le Rédacteur-en-Chef, Kinyamateka, BP 761, Kigali, République rwandaise
- M. le Rédacteur-en-Chef, La Relève, Office rwandaise d'information, BP 83, Kigali, République rwandaise
- M. le Rédacteur-en-Chef, Isibo, Bureau central, BP 2258, Kigali, République rwandaise
- M. 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 22 April 1992.