

PUBLIC

AI Index: AFR 47/09/00

3 March 2000

Further information on UA 49/00 (AFR 47/07/00, 24 February 2000) and follow-up (AFR 47/08/00, 1 March 2000) - Forcible return / Fear for safety

RWANDA / TANZANIA Bertin Murera, Rwandese Patriotic Army (RPA) member
Benjamin Rutabana, musician/songwriter and demobilized RPA member
Janvier Rugema, RPA member
Innocent Byabagamba, RPA member
François Rukeba, businessman

The above five detainees, still held at Kanombe military detention centre, near Kigali, have been visited by members of the National Human Rights Commission in Rwanda. The Commission reported that the men are in good health and did not show signs of torture or ill-treatment. The authorities stated that the detainees would be allowed to receive visits from their relatives.

The men's cases are reportedly being investigated by the *Auditorat militaire* (Military Prosecutor's Office). Details of the exact charges against them are not yet confirmed, but there are reports that the Rwandese Patriotic Army (RPA) members are being accused of desertion and the civilians of complicity in desertion.

Janvier Rugema, Innocent Byabagamba and François Rukeba stated that they were forcibly returned to Rwanda from Burundi on 5 February 2000. It is believed that François Rukeba and Innocent Byabagamba were sent back to Rwanda by plane, whereas Janvier Rugema was driven back across the border by road. All five were handed over to the Rwandese authorities on arrival.

No further action is required at this stage. Thank you to all those who sent appeals.