

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA423/92 Fear of extrajudicial execution

1 December 1993

**RWANDA** **Alphonse-Marie NKUBITO, Attorney General, Kigali**  
**Court of Appeal and President of a non governmental**  
**human rights group in Rwanda, the *Association rwandaise pour***  
***les droits de l'homme* (ARDHO)**

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Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of Alphonse-Marie Nkubito. On 14 November 1993 unidentified men threw grenades at him as he entered his home in the Kacyiru suburb in the capital Kigali. Unofficial sources in Kigali say that the perpetrators are thought to be members of the security forces acting clandestinely. Whilst Alphonse-Marie Nkubito was recovering in hospital, neighbours witnessed armed men attempting to break into his home on several occasions. He fled the hospital and is reported to have gone into hiding in fear for his life, allegedly after rumours circulated that a fresh attempt to assassinate him in hospital was imminent. Amnesty International is concerned that Alphonse-Marie Nkubito may be in danger of extrajudicial execution.

The attacks occurred a few days before the opening of a corruption trial, in which Alphonse-Marie Nkubito was due to prosecute a businessman known to have close links with top government officials and members of the security forces. Alphonse Marie Nkubito is also a well-known human rights activist in Rwanda who has in the past publicised human rights violations committed by members of the security forces.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Several human rights activists, as well as members of political parties opposed to the politics of President Habyarimana, have been threatened or attacked either by armed Hutu gangs, or by members of the security forces (often in plain clothes) in Rwanda since early 1993.

Members of the minority Tutsi ethnic group and of the majority Hutu ethnic group known or thought to be opposed to the party of President Juvénal Habyarimana, the *Mouvement républicain national pour la démocratie et le développement* (MRND), Republican Movement for Democracy and Development, live with the daily threat of death, injury and the looting and destruction of their property. Over 300 people are known to have been killed by the Rwandese security forces since the beginning of 1993 and hundreds of others are said to have been murdered by armed gangs.

Since war broke out in Rwanda in 1990 between Hutu-dominated government forces and rebels of the Tutsi-dominated Rwandese Patriotic Front (RPF), more than 2,300 people, mostly of the Tutsi ethnic group have reportedly been killed by the security forces and Hutu gangs. When the conflict started the Rwandese authorities arrested about 8,000 suspected supporters of the RPF, most of them Tutsi. As Prosecutor General, Alphonse-Marie Nkubito was given responsibility to vet detainees and order the release of those he found innocent. He was accused by supporters of President Habyarimana of releasing rebels and was subsequently transferred from Kigali, where he was the senior prosecutor, to a provincial town. He subsequently helped set up Rwanda's first human rights organization in 1991 and was only recently moved back to his post in Kigali.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters either in French, English or in your own language:

- expressing concern at reports that Alphonsé-Marie Nkubito and his home have been subjected to grenade attacks and that no action appears to have been taken to protect him and his family or to establish who was responsible for the attack;

- requesting the authorities to make a clear public statement condemning such attacks and ensure protection for Alphonsé-Marie Nkubito and his family and anyone being attacked or threatened and to take urgent measures to ensure that those found responsible for such attacks are brought to justice;

- asking the authorities to set up urgently an independent and impartial inquiry into reports that members of the security forces may have been involved directly or indirectly in the attacks on the home and person of Alphonsé-Marie Nkubito with a view to bringing those responsible to justice.

#### **APPEALS TO:**

##### 1. President:

Son Excellence

Monsieur le Général-Major

Président HABYARIMANA Juvénal

Président de la République

Présidence de la République

BP 15, Kigali, République rwandaise

**Telegramms: Président Habyarimana, Kigali, Rwanda**

**Telephones: 22517**

**Faxes: + 250 74583**

**Salutation: Monsieur le Président de la République / Your President**

##### 2. Prime Minister:

Madame UWILINGIYIMANA Agathe

Premier Ministre

Présidence de la République

BP 15, Kigali, République rwandaise

**Telegramms: Premier Ministre, Kigali, Rwanda**

**Telephones: 22502**

**Faxes: + 250 72902, + 250 72904**

**Salutation: Madame le Premier Ministre / Your Prime Minister**

##### 3. Minister of Defence:

Monsieur BIZIMUNGU Augustine

Ministre à la Présidence pour la Défense et la Sécurité

BP 15, Kigali, République rwandaise

**Telegramms: Ministre Défense, Kigali, Rwanda**

**Telephones: 22517**

**Faxes: + 250 74583**

**Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Your Minister**

#### **COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

##### Minister of Foreign Affairs:

Monsieur NGULINZIRI Boniface

Ministre des Affaires étrangères

et de la Coopération

Ministère des Affaires étrangères

BP 179

Kigali

République rwandaise

##### Minister of Justice

Madame NTAMABYALIRO Agnès

BP160

Kigali

République rwandaise

and the following newspapers:

Monsieur Vincent Rwabukwisi

Rédacteur-en-Chef

Journal Kanguka

BP 2119, Kigali, Rwanda

Abbé André SIBOMANIRA

Rédacteur-en-Chef

Journal Kinyamateka

BP 761, Kigali, Rwanda

and to diplomatic representatives of RWANDA accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 11th January 1994