

PUBLIC

AI Index: AFR 47/08/00

1 March 2000

Further information on UA 49/00 (AFR 47/07/00, 24 February 2000) - Forcible return / Fear for safety

RWANDA / TANZANIA      Bertin Murera, Rwandese Patriotic Army (RPA) member  
Benjamin Rutabana, musician/songwriter and  
demobilized RPA member

New names: Janvier Rugema, RPA member  
Innocent Byabagamba, RPA member  
François Rukeba, businessman

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Bertin Murera and Benjamin Rutabana, who were forcibly returned from Tanzania to Rwanda on 5 February 2000, are now known to be in Kanombe military detention centre, on the outskirts of the capital, Kigali. Torture and ill-treatment are frequently reported in military detention centres in Rwanda.

Two other Rwandese soldiers and a civilian, named above, are also detained in Kanombe. They were reportedly forcibly returned to Rwanda from Burundi.

There is no further news of why any of the men have been detained or whether they face any formal charges.

Scores of other Rwandese and Burundians have been forcibly returned from Tanzania in the month of February alone, including some who had been living in Tanzania for many years.

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

**To the Rwandese authorities:**

- expressing concern at the detention of Bertin Murera and Benjamin Rutabana in Kanombe military detention centre, after they were forcibly returned to Rwanda from Tanzania on 5 February 2000;
- asking for guarantees of their safety and for assurances that they are not being ill-treated;
- appealing to the Rwandese authorities to allow them visits from relatives and human rights and humanitarian organizations;
- asking for the legal basis for their arrest and detention and calling for their immediate and unconditional release unless they are charged with a recognizably criminal offence;
- asking why Janvier Rugema, François Rukeba and Innocent Byabagamba have been arrested, reportedly after being forcibly returned to Rwanda from Burundi, and pointing out that as a civilian François Rukeba should not be in military custody.

**To the Tanzanian authorities:**

- stating that Amnesty International has received confirmation that Bertin Murera and Benjamin Rutabana are now detained in Kanombe military detention centre in Rwanda, but expressing continuing concern for their safety and well-being in Rwanda;
- urging the Tanzanian authorities to conduct an immediate investigation into their arrest and forcible return to Rwanda by Tanzanian police, apparently at the request of the Rwandese authorities, and stressing that

the Tanzanian authorities had a responsibility to ensure the safety of the two men, who had sought protection;

- pointing out that their forcible return, and other recent cases of *refoulement*, represent a serious violation of Tanzania's commitments under national and international law, in particular the 1951 UN Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1969 Organization of African Unity Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa;

- asking the Tanzanian authorities to seek assurances from the Rwandese authorities that the two men will not be subjected to human rights violations;

- urging the authorities to uphold the customary principle of non-*refoulement* of refugees from Rwanda or any other country.

**APPEALS TO RWANDA TO:**

Major General Paul KAGAME  
Vice-President and Minister of Defence  
Ministry of Defence  
BP 23, Kigali, Rwanda

**Telegrams: Vice-President, Kigali, Rwanda**

**Fax: + 250 72431 / 76969**

**Salutation: Dear Vice-President / Monsieur le Vice-Président**

Sheikh Abdul Karim HARELIMANA  
Minister for Internal Security  
Ministry for Internal Security  
BP 446, Kigali, Rwanda

**Telegrams: Minister Interior, Kigali, Rwanda**

**Fax: + 250 82071**

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

**COPIES TO:**

Lieutenant-Colonel Andrew Rwigamba  
Auditeur militaire général  
Auditorat militaire général  
BP 394  
Kigali, Rwanda

**Fax: + 250 76728**

Gasana Ndobu  
President of the National Human Rights Commission  
BP 269  
Kigali, Rwanda

**Fax: + 250 82702**

**APPEALS TO TANZANIA TO:**

Mr Ali Ameir Mohamed  
Minister of Home Affairs  
Ministry of Home Affairs  
PO Box 9223  
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

**Telegrams: Minister Home Affairs, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania**

**Fax: + 255 51 118334**

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

Mr Jakaya Kikwete  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
PO Box 9000  
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

**Telegrams: Minister Foreign Affairs, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania**  
**Fax: +255 51 116600**  
**Salutation: Dear Minister**

**COPIES TO:**

Ms Marjon Kamara  
The UNHCR Representative in the United Republic of Tanzania  
PO Box 2666  
Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania  
**Fax: +255 51 15 28 17 or 14 or 15**

and to diplomatic representatives of Rwanda and Tanzania accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 6 April 2000.