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Weekly Update NHS 11/20/91.

4.AFR 47/HU 03/91 EXTERNAL.

June 5 1991.

RWANDA: AI DELEGATION TO MEET GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

Representatives are visiting Rwanda to hold talks

and security officials between 10 and 14 June

and promotion of

Two Amnesty International

with Rwandese government and

1991. The talks are expected to centre on the protection

human rights in the country.

AI's representatives are the Vice

Executive Committee, Bacre Naly Ndiaye, a Senegalese lawyer, and a staff member of the organization's International Secretariat. A representative of the organization previously visited Kigali in January 1991 to observe the first of a series of trials of political prisoners.

The visit takes place in the context of Amnesty International's

concerns arising out of human rights abuses which followed the October 1990

violent armed attack on Rwanda by Uganda-based members of the rebel group

known as the Front for the Liberation of Rwanda (FLR). The fighting is reported to

be continuing despite a ceasefire signed in the Zairian capital, Kinshasa.

at the end of March 1991 by Rwandese government officials and FLR leaders.

Amnesty International has a number of long-term human rights concerns

in Rwanda relating to the imprisonment of prisoners of conscience and

7,000, unfair trials of political prisoners, in particular before the State

Security Court.

Following the outbreak of fighting in October 1990 Amnesty

International was concerned at reports in late 1990 and early 1991 of

extrajudicial executions by members of the Rwandese security forces of

civilians not involved in the fighting. Amnesty International has also been

concerned at reports that FLR forces have deliberately killed suspected

government supporters who were effectively taken prisoner. The organization

has condemned the torture and killings by anyone, including non-governmental

groups.

As many as 7,000 people were arrested in Rwanda following the rebel

attack. Amnesty International was concerned that many of those detained

prisoners of conscience imprisoned solely because they were

members of the Tutsi ethnic group or were known or suspected to be critical

of the government. The organization consequently welcomed the release of

several thousand detainees at the end of March 1991. By mid-April 1991 most

political detainees had been released and only several dozen are believed

to be held. Amnesty International was also concerned at reports that

the detained were ill-treated, leading to several deaths in

the President of its International

appeared to be

many of those

Amnesty International has been concerned at the large

numbers of death sentences imposed each year by Rwandese courts. The

organization welcomes the fact that there have been no judicial executions

in Rwanda since 1982 and welcomed commutations of all death sentences then

in force in September 1990 and again in April 1991. The organization has

urged the Rwandan

authorities, including by

the death.

Rwandese authorities to take steps to abolish the death penalty

by immediately reducing the number of offences punishable by

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Weekly Update NNS 11/14/91

3. AFR 47/wu 02/91 EXTi-\201RHAL

26 April 1991

RUANDA: THOUSANDS OF PRISONERS RELEASED

At least 3,500 people detained without trial in connection with a violent attack on Rwanda by Uganda-based Rwandese exiles in October 1990 were released by the government in late March and early April 1991.

.In all. about 7000 people were arrested in connection with the rebel attack. About 3,000 of them, 011 untried detainees were said by the authorities to have been released between October 1990 and February 1991. Several dozen others whose releases were delayed because of administrative constraints are expected to be freed shortly.

. At least 40 people arrested in connection with the rebel attack now remain in prison. They include 12 people sentenced to prison terms and eight sentenced to death by the State Security Court in January and February 1991 after unfair trials. They also include about two dozen others whose cases are still due to be heard by the court.

Many of those released appear to have been imprisoned because of their ethnic or national origins, non-violent political opinions or family relations with individual rebels. rather than because of any involvement in the fighting.

Most of those held before the recent releases were members of the minority Tutsi ethnic group who appear to have been detained because of their ethnic origin or family relationships with members of the rebel Front patriotique rwandais (FPR). Rwandese Patriotic Front. Others were members of the majority Hutu ethnic group who appear to have been suspected of supporting the FPR because they had criticized the authorities or government policies before the rebel attack. Nearly 300 of those freed were Ugandans who appear to have been detained because of their nationality. The Rwandese authorities have alleged that the rebellion was supported by some Ugandan government authorities and that Ugandan soldiers actively participated in the rebellion.

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UA 63/91 'Lognlconcernlrear of Ill:treatment 21 February 1991

RWANDA Emmanuel Hlvugimana, teacher at Rwankeri College

â\200\234 -* Justin Kunanugire

â\200\230 Laurent K-rugntan) both students at th- Adventist University

Ezekiel Ngobokn')-of Central Africa, near Gizenyi

Amnesty International has received tutormation that tne {bur peep e named a eve, a members of Rwanda'a minority Tutsi ethnic group, were arrusted in late January and early February 1991 in the northwestern Rwandese town of Gieenyi. They were arrested following a rebel incursion and brief occupation on 23 January 1991 of the nearby town of Ruhengeri. They are reported to be held at Gisenyi prtaon and are reportedly â\200\230 accused by the authorities and members of the majority Hutu ethnic group of lin ks with

the Tutsiâ\200\224dominated rebel group known as the Front patrincique rwandais.

Emmanuel Havugimana was reportedly assaulted and severely beatun by local Hutu on

26 January in Gieenyt region's Rwankeri diatrict (communit. His attackers left him

unconscious by the roadside, where Justin Kanamugire tound him and took him to Rwankeri

dispennary. As Emmanuel i-\202avugimana was beginning to recaver from his injuries at the

dispensary, both he and Justin Kanamugire were arreetud by soldiers on the night of 30

January. The places of their detention have not been rnrealed by the authorities to

their faleiea but they are believed to be held at Giucn(1 prison.

Laurent Karugarama and Ezekiel Ngoboka were arrested on 3 February 1991 at the

Adventist University campus in northwest Rwanda where several other students were

arrested between 2 and 5 February but have subsequently been released. Virtually all

those arrested were subjected to beatings or other violence by local people and members

of the Rwandese security forces. Ezekiel Ngoboka is reported to have been slashed on

the face with a machete and also sustained an injury on the leg. Laurent Karugarama is

reported to have sustained bruises on most of his body.

Since their arrest these detainees are reported to be receiving virtually no

medical attenttcn and to have been refused visits by their relatives. They are also

said to be sleeping on bare floors without blankets. On 2 February 1991 a Roman

Catholic priest was detained by members of the security forces because he tried to

deliver a blanket to another student detained in Gisenyi prison. He was released on 9

February when his Superior intervened but the Superior was himself detained until 15

February. The student continues to be held.

Amnesty International is concerned that several dozen Tutsi have been arrested in

northwest Rwanda since the rebel attack on Ruhengeri on 23 January 1991, apparently

because of their ethnic origin rather than because thure la evidence of their

involvement in rebel activities. The organization is also concerned that the

authorities are not known to have taken any action to punish or prevent beatings and

illâ\200\224treatment of those arrested by local people and mnmbers of the security force s and

thus appear to be condoning such abuses. Those arrested are not known to have been

charged with any offence and are not allowed to receive visits by their relatives.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION _

Following the rebel attack by Uganda-based Rwandese exiles in October 1990, thousands

of people were arrested._most of them membcrs of the Tutsi ethnic group. Several weeks

after the first arrests the Rwandese Government set up a commission to screen detainees

and order the release of those against whom criminal charges could not be brought. The

government later announced that nearly 4,0 > detainees had been released. The work of

the commission was suspended at the end of ovember 1990 before most of the detainees

had appeared before it. Between 3,000 and 4,000 detainees are believed to be still

held, most of them without charge.

Twenty-five people were tried by the State Security Court between 28 December 1990

and 1 February 1991 in connection with the rebellion. Eight have been sentenced to

death. The media in Rwanda is reported to have been advocating revenge and violence

against the Tutsi. Hutu vigilantes have been involved in violent attacks on Tutsi. The

(requency of new arrests, which had fallen, increased after the 23 January attack On

Ruhengeri town.

'3: (44)(71) 413 5500 Telegrams: Amnesty London WCt Telex: 28502 FAX: 956 1157

Amnesty lntomatlonal Is an Independent woddwldo movement woaklng to: the international pr otoccton at human

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detained without charge or trial. It opposes the death penalty and torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading

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- urging that noâ\200\224one should be taken into custody unless there is evidence that t
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public and the security forces that noâ\200\224one
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- calling on the authorities to make it clear to the public and the security forces
that lt 15 illegal to subject suspected criminals to aaeaulte,
beatings and other
violence and that those responsible for using unlawfu) violence will themselves be
brought to justice;
- eeeking assurances
that the four detainee-
named abovn and others are being allowed
full access to medical attention and visits by their relatives and that those who
have been deliberately injured will receive compensation.

APPEALS TO
Son Excel lence
President JuvÃ©nal HABYBRIMANA
PrÃ©sldet de la RÃ©publique
8915.
'Klgali, RÃ©publique Rwandalee
Telegrams: President nabyarluana,
Telexelt 22517
Faxes: + 250 7458]
Monsieur faustln MUNYAZESA
Kigali, Rwanda
Miniatre de l'IntÃ©rieur et du dÃ©veloppement communal
Ministers de l'IntÃ©rLenr
B? 446'
Kigali, RÃ©publique Rwandaiso
Telegrams: ,Hiniitre Munyazesa,
Telexes: 22502
Honsieur Sylvestre NSAHZIHANA
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MinistÃ©te de la Justice
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Kigali, RÃ©publique Rwandalae
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Ministere dee Affairea Ã©trangÃ©ree

BP 179

Kigali, RÃ©publiÃ©ue Ruandaiee

Telegrams:

Faxes:

Monsieur le RÃ©dacteur-enÃ©\200\224Chef, Imvaho, BP 83 Kigali,
Kinyamatekg,

La Releve, Office rwandatne d'informatlion, BP 83,

Monsieur le RÃ©dacteur-enÃ©\200\224Chef,

Honeieur le RÃ©dacteur-en-Chef,

Kigali, RÃ©publiqueÃ©\200\230Rwandaise

Ministre den Affaires ettangeren,

+350 72902 or +250 72904

Kigali, Rwanda

RÃ©publique Rwandalae

BP 761, Kigali, RÃ©publique Rwandaiee

and to diplomatic representatives of Rwanda in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.

section office if sending appeals after 4 Aprtl

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rapldly to prevent the Ill-treatment ot prisonets. An appeal is

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retiable and accurate inlormation in such cases. It is not

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Jean Chryeotome Karuranga was sentenced to death on 7 January 1991 when Rwanda's State Security Court convicted hlm of recruiting and training people to take part in a rebellion to overthrow the government of Prenldent Juvĩ-\20lnal Habyarlmana. A violent attack was launched on northeast Rwanda in October 1090 by Uganda-baeed exiles and rebel bands are said to be still actlve in parts of northern Rwanda.
He was tried with 12 others, nine of whom were sentenced to prison terms of between 15 and 20 years for agreeing to be recruited by Jean Chryaostome Karuranga and failing to report the offence to the authorities. One was acquitted while two others received shorter prison sentences. When the case came to court on 3 January, the prosecution requested death sentences for 12 of the accused, including a 16â\200\224year-old boy.
An Amnesty International representative observed the trial of the 13 people on 3 January and concluded that the trial was summary and unfair in many respects. The â\200\2317hearing lasted less than five hours. Although 12 faced capital charges, none wa s assisted by legal counsel. Most of the accused told the court that they were beaten or threatened into making admissions of guilt while in pre-trial custody but the court did not investigate these claims or rule such evidence inadmissible. Prosecution accusations against Jean Chrysostome Karuranga were not supported by material evidence; in particular, although the prosecution said he had hidden a firearm, this had not been found at the site where it was said to have been burled.
The courtâ\200\230s judges did not appear to be fully independent or impartial. Four out oi the five judges who heard the case were closely linked to the armed forces or the government and only two of them had significant legal training. The court's composition has since been changed.
Under the terms of Rwandese law, prisoners convicted by the State Security Court have no general right of appeal to a higher court but they can petition the Cessation Court on points of law within 10 days. In practice, however, those convicted who have no legal counsel rarely submit such petitions as they are unaware of the procedure, have no legal expertise and fear that lodging an appeal will be interpreted as a further challenge to the governmentâ\200\231s authority. It seems that none of those convicted on 7 January hav~ appealed to the Cassation Court. It is feared that an execution could take place at any time. ' -
There have been no judicial executions in Rwanda Hlnce 1982 Qhen 43 people were shot by firing squad. However, the courts have continued to impose hundreds of death sentences. More than 1500 death sentences have been commuted since since 1987, 480 of them in September 1990. The government said in December 1990 that 1,566 people were to be tried in connection with the rebel incursion and the trial on 3'January took place in an atmosphere of vengeance with recordings of songs celebrating the victory of government soldiers over rebels in recent months being played in court before and after the trial. According to press reports, the court was criticlzed for sentencing only one defendant to death.
Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all cases as a violation of the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment. The death penalty is the premeditated and coldâ\200\224blooded killing of a h uman being by the state. It '18 a violent and brutalizing act. ..
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1 7:} (44)(71) 413 5500 Telegrams: Amnesty London W31 Telex: 28502 FAX: 956 1157
Amnesty Internationnl Is an lndnpendonl wovldwido movnmeni working {or the lntemaĩ-\202on al protection of human rights. It seeks â\200\23418 release 0! men and women detained anywhere batouseol their b allots, colour, 2.6x, ethnic

origin, language or religious creed, provided they have not used or advocated violence. These are Qatari prisoners of conscience. He works for full and prompt trials for all political prisoners and works on behalf of such people detained without charge in Mal. He opposes the death penalty and torture, or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of all prisoners.

Rwanda acceded in 1975 to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Its Article 14 guarantees everyone's right to fair trial, including assistance by legal counsel, and the right to appeal to a higher court. Its Article 6 prohibits the sentencing of persons less than 18 years old to death.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/faxes/airmail letters, in French if possible: .

â\200\224 expressing concern that Jean Chrysostome Karuranga

State Security Court on 7 January 1991, - â\200\235 _

- expressing concern at reports that he and 12 others tried with him were convicted after a summary trial which did not meet internationally recognized standards for fair trial; as examples refer to allegations by the defendants' that they were beaten and threatened into confessing their guilt, 'which were not investigated or considered by the court; and to the absence of any legal counsel although they faced capital charges;

- urging that all those convicted be allowed to appeal against their conviction and sentence to a higher court and, if the death sentence is confirmed, that Jean Chrysostome Karuranga be given a full opportunity to petition the Head of State for clemency;

- welcoming the commutation of death sentences over President, if the sentence is referred to him, to exercise his prerogative as he has done since 1903, and to commute it to a different and more lenient punishment; - .

- explaining that executions are a violation of human rights which not only deprive of a human being of his right to life but are also a form of cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment, the use of which contravenes the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

He was sentenced to death by the court over the past seven years and urging the prerogative of mercy to a more humane form of

APPEALS TO:

Son Excellence

President HABYARIMANA Juvénalis

President de la République

SP 15

Monsieur MUGEMANA Jean-Marie Vianney

Ministre de l'Intérieur et du Développement

Ministère de l'Intérieur:

Kigali, République Rwandaise BP 446,

Telegrams: President Nabyrimann, Kigali, République Rwandaise

Kigali, Rwanda Telegrams: Ministre Mugemana, Kigali,

Telexes: 22517 V Rwanda

Faxes: + 250 74583 Telexes: 22502

Honorable MUJYANAMA Théobalte Monsieur le Docteur BIZIMUNGU Casimir'

Ministre des Affaires Étrangères et de

Ministère de la Justice la coopération

BP 160 Ministère des Affaires Étrangères

Kigali, République Rwandaise BP 179

Telegrams: Ministre Mujyanama, Kigali, République Rwandaise

Kigali, Rwanda Telegrams: Ministre des Affaires

Telexes: 22502 étrangères, Kigali, Rwanda

Faxes: + 250 72902/02: + 250 72904

Ministre de la Justice

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ICOPIES TO:

Monsieur le Résident-en-Chef, Imvaho, BP 83, Kigali, République Rwandaise

Monsieur le Résident-en-Chef, Kinyamateka, BP 76, Kigali, République Rwandaise

Monsieur le Résident-en-Chef, La Résidence, Office rwandaise d'information, BP 83

Kigali, République Rwandaise

PLEASE SEND APPEALS: IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat or your section office if sending appeals after 28 February 1991.

â\200\224â\200\224 Please take action as soon as you receive this Urgent Action Vâ\200\224-

The name of Amnesty International may be used, although

appeal. Carefully read the recommended action. If possible, lawyers or persons in a private or personal capacity may be more

send a telegram or express letter immediately to one or more effective

local addresses given. Other letters can be sent afterwards. -â\200\224--Copies of appeals should be sent â\200\2300 relevant documents

1. representatives in your country.

â\200\224 Teams and leaders should be vigilant and courteous. Stress . -

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Weekly Update NWS 11/07/91

3. 'v'AFR 47 /wu 02/91 EXTERNAL

RWANDA: SEVEN SENTENCED TO DEATH AFTER UNFAIR TRIAL

Seven people have been 5 .

second in a series of political trials of over 1,500 people arrested last year.

~ Those being tried were all arrested in connection with a violent attack on northeast Rwanda by Uganda-based Rwandese exiles in October 1990.

_ So far, 25 people have been tried by the State Security Court and eight of them have been sentenced to death.

Amnesty International is urging that all trials should be conducted in accordance with international standards for fair trial. The organization said the latest trial, which ended on 1 February, was unfair in many respects.

Public opinion became particularly hostile to the defendants after insurgents attacked the northwestern town of Ruhengeri on 23 January - the prosecution was applauded and the defence jeered in court, creating an atmosphere which apparently intimidated defence lawyers and made a fair trial difficult.

When one defence lawyer protested, asking the court to be more neutral, one of the judges told him the public considered him a friend of insurgents fighting the government - the "Inkotanyi" - and charged him with contempt. He and another lawyer assisting the 12 defendants later received anonymous death threats and decided to withdraw from the case. The court refused to let a Belgian defence lawyer speak in defence of the two lawyers' clients.

The court also failed to investigate allegations that at least two of the accused had signed false statements under duress during pre-trial detention, and admitted these statements as evidence. In previous years, Rwanda's State Security Court has failed to carry out any inquiry into torture allegations made in court.

At the end of the second trial, seven defendants were sentenced to death, one was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment, three were acquitted and one remanded to allow further investigation of his case. The eight who were convicted and sentenced were known to have spoken out in

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favour of the return to Rwanda of Rwandese exiles before the October 1990 attack. They were found guilty of being in complicity with the rebels and have a right of appeal on points of law to the CQQ; de cassation (Cassation Court), but no general right of appeal. 2

One person was also-sentenced to death and 11 others to prison terms after the first-of these political trials on 3 January. The defendants were not represented by lawyers and most alleged that they were beaten or threatened to make them confess. The court failed to investigate these allegations.. One defendant was acquitted. -

An Amnesty International observer attended the first trial. The second trial was observed by representatives at several non-governmental organisations, the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) and the Union of Central African lawyers (Union des Avocats d'Afrique Centrale).
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Weekly Update HHS 11/01/90
4. AFR 47/wu 01/91 EXTERNAL
10 January 1991_

RWANDA: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL SENDS TRIAL OBSERVER

The following information was sent to selected sections on 29 December 1990 and is accurate as of that date. More trials have since been held and a further update will follow shortly.

An Amnesty International representative arrived in the Rwandese capital, Kigali, on 28 December 1990 to observe the first in a series of trials of some 1,566 people charged with offences arising out of a violent attack on northeast Rwanda by Ugandaâ\200\224based Rwandese exiles in early October}

The trials are being held before the State Security Court. The first trial of 12 people on 23 December 1990 was reportedly adjourned until 9 January 1991 to give defendants and their lawyers time to prepare for the trial. They were only given details of the charges on 27 December.

Amnesty International is concerned at reports that most of those being brought to trial have not had access to legal counsel during their detention. Previous political trials have occurred in the absence of lawyers. The prisoners at the hearings on 28 December were only able to contact lawyers one week earlier.

Amnesty International is also concerned at reports that the Rwandese authorities are not allowing detainees to be defended by lawyers from outside Rwanda, although the country ,has few lawyers of its own. The authorities have frequently cited this shortage as an explanation for the absence of defence counsel at trials. â\200\230

The State Security Court hearing the present ca~es tried more than 20 people last year. At previous.trials, the court was composed of five judges, including two soldiers and an official of the President's office, so raising doubts about the court's independence. â\200\230

Trials have occurred sporadically before the State Security Court since the first trials in 1979 - in 1981, 1983, 1986 and 1990. Amnesty International.is concerned that all these trials have not met international standards for fair trial.

Trials have often been summary, with defendants given an inadequate opportunity to [?Lâ\200\230fâ\200\230iszL lelr dutcmm and the court aning lâ\200\230n invrâ\200\230nl'iqnlâ\200\230n nlninr: by dnfmvlnts: thnf sr_ntnments used as prosecution evidence Were made under duress. Many_oÂf those convicted by the State Security Court have been prisoners of conscience, including people imprisoned for the government (1981 and circulating documents criticizing ' 'ty religious denominations such as_ Jehovahâ\200\231s witnesses (1986 and 1990) and individuals who have formed opposition political parties (1983 and 1990), an action which remains prohibited in Rwandaâ\200\231s Oneâ\200\224party state. " presentative will report on his Amnesty Internationalâ\200\231s re ational_Executive findings to the organizationâ\200\231s Intern Committee.