

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 09/94 Attempted extrajudicial execution / fear
for safety

13 January 1994

RWANDA André KATABARWA, human rights activist
and members of his household

Amnesty International fears for the safety of André Katarbarwa and members of his household after what appears to have been an attempt on the human rights activist's life. On 11 January 1994 an unidentified man threw a grenade at André Katarbarwa as he was coming out of his home in Kiyovu, a suburb of Rwanda's capital, Kigali. André Katarbarwa and his day-watchman were both slightly injured in the attack.

Eyewitnesses saw a man on a motorcycle without registration plates outside André Katarbarwa's house, apparently waiting for him to come out. A marked vehicle of the Rwandese Gendarmerie (paramilitary police) was also seen patrolling the area, but failed to arrest the man after he had thrown the grenade. The gendarmes reportedly waited until the attacker had fled before leaving the area. Unofficial sources in Kigali say that the attacker could have been a member of the security forces, or at least acting with their approval. The attack is typical of a series which has occurred over the last year, targeting known human rights activists, including Marie-Alphonse Nkubito, a state prosecutor (see UA 423/93, AFR 47/10/93, 1 December 1993).

André Katarbarwa works for the *Association des volontaires de la paix* (AVP), one of Rwanda's non-governmental human rights organizations. He is a former government minister and Ambassador to Italy.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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

Members of the minority Tutsi ethnic group and those belonging to the majority Hutu ethnic group known or thought to oppose President Juvénal Habyarimana, 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 and hundreds of others are said to have been murdered by armed gangs since the beginning of 1993.

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 security forces and Hutu gangs. Despite the signing of a Peace Accord in August 1993, insecurity and tension in the country has continued, partly due to the delay in the setting up of a transitional government and the late arrival of UN peace-keeping troops. Several non-governmental organizations in Rwanda, such as the AVP, have documented and published information highly critical of the role played by government and security forces in the violation of human rights during and after the war with the RPF.

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

- expressing concern at reports that André Katararwa and his home have been subjected to a grenade attack by a person believed by some to be a member of the security forces;
- urging the authorities to take immediate measures to protect André Katararwa and his family from any further attacks;
- asking the authorities to set up an independent and impartial inquiry into the attack with a view to bringing those responsible to justice;
- urging the government to publicly condemn such attacks and take steps to prevent their recurrence.

APPEALS TO

1. President:

Son Excellence,
Monsieur le Président
Président HABYARIMANA Juvénal
Président de la République
Présidence de la République
BP 15, Kigali, République rwandaise
Telegrams: President Habyarimana, Kigali, Rwanda
Telexes: 22517
Faxes: + 250 74583
Salutation: Monsieur le Président de la République / Dear President

2. Prime Minister:

Madame UWILINGIYIMANA Agathe
Premier Ministre
Présidence de la République
BP 1334, Kigali, République rwandaise
Telegrams: Premier Ministre, Kigali, Rwanda
Telexes: 22502
Faxes: + 250 83714
Salutation: Madame le Premier Ministre / Dear Prime Minister

3. Minister of Defence:

Monsieur BIZIMANA Augustin
Ministre à la Présidence pour la Défense et la Sécurité
BP 23, Kigali, République rwandaise
Telegrams: Ministre Defense, Kigali, Rwanda
Telexes: 22517
Faxes: + 250 72133
Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Dear Minister

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Minister of Interior:

Monsieur GASANA Anastase
Ministre des Affaires étrangères et de la Coopération
Ministère des Affaires étrangères
BP 446, Kigali, République rwandaise

Minister of Justice:

Madame NTAMABYALIRO Agnès
BP 180, Kigali, République rwandaise

and the following newspapers:

Monsieur Vincent Rwabukwisi, Rédacteur-en-Chef
Journal Kanquka, BP 2119, Kigali, Rwanda

Abbé André SIBOMANA, 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 24 February 1994.