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## RWANDA: CASES FOR APPEALS

### **Introduction**

At the start of April 1994, Rwanda was plunged into the most tragic part of its history yet. By early July, it was estimated that at least 500,000 people, most of them members of the minority Tutsi ethnic group, had been killed in countrywide massacres when an aircraft carrying Rwanda's President, Juvénal Habyarimana, and his Burundi counterpart Cyprien Ntaryamira, was brought down by a missile, killing both Presidents and other officials.

Evidence gathered by Amnesty International, the UN and others, suggests that the killings were on the whole perpetrated by members of the security forces and militia gangs loyal to President Habyarimana. Certain elements of the Rwandese Armed Forces, such as the Presidential Guard, were close to Hutu-dominated political parties, who were in turn responsible for the establishment and training of militia. The two main Hutu parties believed responsible for this were President Habyarimana's own party, the *Mouvement républicain national pour la démocratie et le développement* (MRND), National Republican Movement for Democracy and Development, and an exclusively Hutu political party, the *Coalition pour la défense de la républic* (CDR), Coalition for the Defence of the Republic. They were allied in their opposition to peace accords which included the setting up of a broad-based transitional government. The transitional government was to include members of the Rwandese Patriotic Front (RPF) a Tutsi-dominated armed opposition party which

had engaged in armed conflict with government forces since October 1990.

The installation of the broad-based transitional government was due to take place 37 days after the signing of the so-called Arusha accords on 4 August 1993. Tension between political parties created by disagreements over numbers and identities of representatives to nominate for the transitional government led to a sharp increase in politically-motivated violence as the government's inauguration became increasingly overdue. Attacks against politicians, human rights activists and ordinary people by "unknown" assailants typified a campaign of apparent destabilization. The shooting down of the President's aircraft on his return from a regional conference convened to solve political stalemates in Rwanda and Burundi, served to ignite an extremely explosive situation. Members and supporters of the Hutu-dominated interim government which took power immediately after President Habyarimana's death gave explicit orders for massacres countrywide.

Amnesty International is concerned that at least 500,000 mainly Tutsi civilians were subjected to arbitrary and deliberate killings by members of the Security forces and militia groups acting under orders by members of the Rwandese government between April and July 1994. The victims included not only Tutsi (who were perceived by their attackers as a "fifth column" of the RPF) but anyone "educated", anyone "well off", anyone who supported human rights or who had a political opinion which did not conform to the ideology of the Hutu extremists. Appeal cases 1-11 relate directly to the victims of these massacres.

The killings were largely halted by the victory of the Rwandese Patriotic Army (RPA) over the *Armée nationale rwandaise* (ANR) Rwandese National Army. The international community then pledged

to assist the new Rwandese government<sup>1</sup> in bringing the perpetrators to justice. The UN is also in the process of deploying human rights observers to the country to investigate the massacres which occurred since January 1994 and monitor reports of violations committed by members of the RPA. Amnesty International and other human rights groups have expressed concern at human rights violations being committed by the RPA, and that the new government is ill-equipped to bring suspects to trial, with safeguards for fairness. Appeal cases 12-15 relate to Amnesty International's concerns regarding violations committed by RPA soldiers and others loyal to the current government.

These appeal cases aim to highlight the fact that those responsible for mass murder in Rwanda have yet to be brought to justice. They also show that human rights violations continue in Rwanda, and that the Rwandese government and the international community have an obligation to halt these violations with a view to ending Rwanda's cycle of violence and impunity.

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<sup>1</sup>The Rwandese government was inaugurated 19 July after an RPA victory.

## Appeal case no. 1

*Agathe Uwilingiyimana was the first woman Prime Minister of Rwanda. She was killed by members of the Presidential Guard<sup>2</sup> with her husband on 7 April 1994.*

*Kigali is an absolute horror. The killers have passed by. They have gone one by one through each house. The dead number thousands, if not tens of thousands. A few hours has been enough for them to wipe out the majority of Rwanda's politicians, several ministers and a number of top magistrates. Amongst the victims has been Madame Agathe Uwilingiyimana, who just before being killed, hid with her husband in my house. The killers were quick to find them. Fortunately their children were saved thanks to the courage of friends and colleagues.*  
*Eye-witness account*

### **Background to case:**

*On the night of 6 April, an aircraft carrying President Juvénal Habyarimana of Rwanda and President Cyprien Ntaryamira of Burundi crashed into the gardens of the Presidency in Kigali, killing all the passengers. Shortly after, members of the Presidential Guard, the National Gendarmerie and militia units known as "Interahamwe"<sup>3</sup>*

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<sup>2</sup>The Presidential Guard fell under the command of the President of the former Rwandese Government which was replaced on 19 July 1994 after a three year-old civil war.

<sup>3</sup>The militia units were created by Hutu-dominated political parties loyal to President Habyarimana. *Interahamwe* translates approximately in English to "those who attack together."

began to execute people known or suspected of supporting a broad-based transitional government that was to include members of the *Rwandese Patriotic Front (RPF)*, a Tutsi-dominated armed opposition movement. Formation of the transitional government was part of the peace agreement signed by the government and the RPF on 4 August 1993, thus ending Rwanda's three year-old civil war. Formation of the government was violently resisted by Hutu-dominated extremist political parties, and had not come into office at the time of the crash. The killings of politicians, intellectuals, businessmen and hundred of thousands of ordinary Tutsi (who were commonly perceived by their killers as an enemy fifth column) were to continue for nearly 12 weeks. Rwandese society and infrastructure were left decimated.

In June 1993, Agathe Uwilingiyimana was nominated by her party, the *Mouvement démocratique républicain (MDR)*, Democratic Republican Movement, as Prime Minister to head a coalition government. In her former post as Education Minister, she had been attacked in her home and received death threats from unidentified men, allegedly for her party's role in reaching a power-sharing agreement with the RPF. It is clear that she was targeted by the killers as she was murdered soon after the death of the President.

**Recommended actions:**

Write a letter to your government explaining that the killers of **Agathe Uliwingiyimana** and those of hundreds of thousands of others killed between April and June 1994 have not been brought to justice and:

- Ask them to put pressure on the UN to assist the Rwandese authorities to identify, apprehend and bring the perpetrators of this killing to justice.
- Ask them to help accelerate the setting up of an international criminal tribunal for Rwanda to begin proceedings as soon as possible.
- Ask them to support the establishment of a permanent international war crimes tribunal, so that governments or others responsible for crimes against humanity are never allowed impunity.
- Seek assurances that no one suspected of involvement in Rwanda's massacres escapes justice in your country.

Send a copy of one of your letters to your own government to the Rwandese authorities<sup>4</sup> with a covering letter asking them to:

- Fully cooperate with the relevant UN bodies who are carrying out inquiries into past and current allegations of human rights violations including crimes against humanity and genocide.

**Audio visual materials available:**

- There is a photograph available of Agathe Uwilingiyimana with her family. (See photo order form attached.)

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<sup>4</sup>Please address no.3 in the attached government authorities list.



## Appeal case no.2

*Jeannette Nsebasone is a young Tutsi girl who claims to be 15 years-old. She survived the massacre of hundreds at Nyamata Roman Catholic Church, but was orphaned because of it.*

*The Interahamwe returned the following morning. A military vehicle mounted with a big gun stopped here (in front of the church). They then fired into the church. Afterwards Interahamwe entered the church with machetes. After many people had already been shot and killed, Interahamwe entered and started slashing people, cutting everyone who was still alive. Only two other Hutu girls survived. There were Hutu employed by Tutsi who were also killed.*

*I was a Tutsi, but I asked them to spare me, saying that I was a Hutu. They left me. I was all covered in blood. There was blood everywhere, including on priests' garments. When I left the church I was given shelter by a Hutu. The following day people began saying a Tutsi had survived and was still hiding around. A Hutu came and took me away saying that I was his relative.*

*Jeannette Nsebasone's testimony*

### **Background to case:**

*On 7 April only hours after the crash which killed the Presidents was announced, Interahamwe arrived in a convoy at Nyamata around 40 kilometres south of Kigali and with the help of government troops*

killed Tutsi and suspected government opponents in their hundreds. In March 1993, Nyamata had been at the centre of a spate of around 300 political killings. Amnesty International raised the case of an Italian nun, Antonia Locatelli, who was shot dead as she tried to shelter displaced Tutsi. Despite appeals by AI, the government had never investigated the earlier massacre at Nyamata.

After the President's aircraft crashed, local residents were instructed not to leave their homes. Soon afterwards, they heard what they thought was members of *Interahamwe* militia units shooting around Nyamata and in Nyamata trading centre. Some people, including Jeannette and her family, fled into the bush, where *Interahamwe* hunted them down. The family, along with hundreds of others then went to the church for sanctuary.

After one or two days, the people in the church heard gunshots as the militia apparently killed displaced people in the surrounding area. When they finished with them, the *Interahamwe* approached the church but did not enter. Instead, they returned the following day to massacre nearly all those left in the church.

**Recommended actions:**

Write a letter to your government explaining that those responsible for the massacre at Nyamata church have not been brought to justice and;

- Ask them to put pressure on the UN to assist the Rwandese authorities to identify, apprehend and bring the perpetrators of this killing to justice.

- *Ask them to help accelerate the setting up of an international criminal tribunal for Rwanda to begin proceedings as soon as possible.*
- *Ask them to support the establishment of a permanent international war crimes tribunal, so that governments responsible for crimes against humanity are never allowed impunity.*
- *Seek assurances that no one suspected of involvement in Rwanda's massacres escapes justice in your country.*

*Send a copy of one of your letters to your own government to the Rwandese authorities<sup>5</sup> with a covering letter asking them to:*

- *Fully cooperate with the relevant UN bodies who are carrying out inquiries into past and current allegations of human rights violations including crimes against humanity and genocide.*

**Audio visual materials:**

- *In August 1994 Amnesty International produced an Electronic News Release (ENR), which includes video footage of delegates visiting Nyamata church<sup>6</sup>.*

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<sup>5</sup>Please address no.3 in the attached government authorities list.

<sup>6</sup>This is available from the Audio Visual Unit at the International Secretariat.

•There is a photo available of Nyamata church. (See photo order form)

### Appeal case no.3

*Immaculée<sup>7</sup>, a 16 year-old girl orphaned and severely wounded, was one of few survivors from over 4,000 people massacred at Nyarubuye Parish, in southeastern Rwanda's Kibungo prefecture on 14 April.*

*The parish was filling up every day with terrorised people. There were almost around 5,000 when on 14 April hundreds of militia arrived with eight gendarmes. We tried to defend ourselves. The church was full of people praying. When we realised we had no hope, I and some others escaped. The young people, and those who still had some strength left, managed to get out. Others, such as parents with young children, we had to leave behind.*

*Young man who escaped the massacre at Nyarubuye.*

#### **Background to case:**

*Nyarubuye is a small parish comprising a Roman Catholic church and a school, in a comparatively isolated position in southeastern Rwanda, near to the Tanzanian frontier. Although nearly the entire population (the victims included many Hutu as well as Tutsi) of this small parish was wiped out in one day by militia units, the massacre was not discovered until 44 days after it had taken place. Soldiers of the Rwandese Patriotic Army (RPA) were sickened to find, as were the*

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<sup>7</sup>Immaculée is not her real name.

dozens of journalists to follow, thousands of mutilated bodies clutching icons and crucifixes. Immaculée was one of the few living persons found; her fingers cut off and deep wounds on her back. Her speech was limited to repeating over and over that her family was dead.

When local people in the area around Nyarubuye started to hear about massacres in Kigali, both Hutu and Tutsi fled to the church for protection. There they prayed and waited. From the carnage left, it seems that the killers mainly used machetes although there was evidence that firearms were also extensively used. The young people who managed to escape the massacre headed towards the Akagera river, which marks the border with Tanzania. Many of them were killed on the way by other militia gangs; one of the escapees claims that only 350 of them reached safety.

The few remaining survivors of Nyarubuye allege that the massacre was organised by the local administrator (*bourgemestre*) who was reported in late 1994 to be living in a refugee camp in neighbouring Tanzania.

#### **Recommended actions:**

Write a letter to your government explaining that those responsible for the killings of known or suspected government opponents of the former Rwandese government and thousands of members of the Tutsi ethnic group have not been brought to justice and;

- Ask them to put pressure on the UN to assist the Rwandese authorities to identify, apprehend and bring the perpetrators of this killing to justice.

- *Ask them to help accelerate the setting up of an international criminal tribunal for Rwanda to begin proceedings as soon as possible.*
- *Ask them to support the establishment of a permanent international war crimes tribunal, so that governments responsible for crimes against humanity are never allowed impunity.*
- *Seek assurances that no one suspected of involvement in Rwanda's massacres escapes justice in your country.*

*Send a copy of one of your letters to your own government to the Rwandese authorities<sup>8</sup> with a covering letter asking them to:*

- *Fully cooperate with the relevant UN bodies who are carrying out inquiries into past and current allegations of human rights violations including crimes against humanity and genocide.*

**Audio visual materials available:**

- *Photographs of a church massacre are available from the International Secretariat for Amnesty International members only.<sup>9</sup>*

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<sup>8</sup>Please address no.3 in the attached government authorities list.

<sup>9</sup>Please request Photo Order form for use with Rapid Response Action June 1994, AFR 47/14/94 and refer to photograph nos 16-19.





### Appeal case no.4

Father Marcel was a Hutu priest at Mubuga Roman Catholic church in Kibuye prefecture in northwestern Rwanda. He was a victim of a political killing along with thousands of others in April 1994.

*"You, the priest, leave! The others are going to die.*

*-But these people are Christians! Like you, like me...*

*-It's an order of the government.*

*-You are not going to let the blood of Catholics flow, not in a church!"*

Eye-witness account of conversation between victim and a soldier.

#### **Background to case:**

Although the *Rwandese Patriotic Army (RPA)* moved fairly rapidly across eastern Rwanda, halting the atrocities carried out by government troops and militia units, Tutsi people living in western Rwanda suffered nearly three months of massacres. By the time the French "*Operation Turquoise*" arrived to set up a "safe haven " in southwestern Rwanda in July, it was estimated that at least half of the 55,000 Tutsi living in Kibuye prefecture had been killed.

Father Marcel of Mubuga church in Kibuye prefecture had sheltered hundreds of Tutsi who had fled from the hills of Bisesero. On 16 April the Prefect (governor) arrived, after the priest had called for help to protect the displaced people who had gathered to seek refuge at his parish. However, the Prefect and his men had arrived for other

purposes and an argument ensued between the priest and Prefect. Father Marcel who fell to his knees crying, as he pleaded for the lives of the Tutsi, was then stabbed to death. The following day, it is estimated that around 4,000 Tutsi who were hiding in the church were massacred by a group of around 500 men armed with guns, grenades and machetes. The bodies were left in shallow graves surrounding the church.

It is believed that 8,000 Tutsi lived on the hills of Bisesero; when the French force arrived on 27 June they found 800. Journalists visiting the church in mid-August saw parishioners attending Sunday service, ignoring the smell that indicated up to half of the population of the Bisesero hills lay rotting in shallow graves around them.

#### **Recommended actions:**

Write a letter to your government explaining that the killers of **Father Marcel and thousands of Tutsi massacred at Mubuga church** have not been brought to justice and;

- Ask them to put pressure on the UN to assist the Rwandese authorities to identify, apprehend and bring the perpetrators of this killing to justice.
- Ask them to help accelerate the setting up of an international criminal tribunal for Rwanda to begin proceedings as soon as possible.
- Ask them to support the establishment of a permanent international war crimes tribunal, so that governments

*responsible for crimes against humanity are never allowed impunity.*

- *Seek assurances that no one suspected of involvement in Rwanda's massacres escapes justice in your country.*

*Send a copy of one of your letters to your own government to the Rwandese authorities<sup>10</sup> with a covering letter asking them to:*

- *Fully cooperate with the relevant UN bodies who are carrying out inquiries into past and current allegations of human rights violations including crimes against humanity and genocide.*

***Audio visual materials available:***

- *Photographs of a church massacre are available from the International Secretariat for Amnesty International members only.<sup>11</sup>*

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<sup>10</sup>Please address no.3 in the attached government authorities list.

<sup>11</sup>Please request Photo Order form for use with Rapid Response Action June 1994, AFR 47/14/94 and refer to photograph nos 16-19.

### Appeal case no.5

**Siméon**<sup>12</sup>, a wounded Tutsi man who was killed with five others on 14 April at a roadblock in Kigali after he was dragged from an ICRC<sup>13</sup> ambulance which was carrying him to hospital.

*"The RPF hid people, including children, girls and women, in houses and gave them weapons. Then they wanted to attack the roadblocks. We defended ourselves. That's why there are bodies at roadblocks."*

-Robert Kajuga, head of the *Interahamwe*, when asked about a pile of young girls' bodies beside a roadblock.

#### **Background to case:**

Soon after the death of the President, members of the security forces and gangs of Hutu men, many of them believed to be members of the *Interahamwe*, erected roadblocks in Kigali in order to control all movement in the city and to identify their enemies and Tutsi.

Although they claimed to foreigners that the purpose of this exercise was to weed out RPF spies, it soon became clear that the roadblocks were to be used as execution points for anyone who could be regarded as "the enemy" or who was trying to escape; similar roadblocks were rapidly erected by Hutu gangs all over Rwanda. Unfortunately, every

<sup>12</sup>Siméon is not his real name.

<sup>13</sup>International Committee of the Red Cross.

Rwandese citizen is required by law to carry identity cards stating their ethnic group (their ethnic group is determined by their father's). If anyone stopped at such a roadblock carried a card stating they were Tutsi, they often "disappeared" or were executed on the spot. Those carrying no card would often suffer a similar fate.

On 14 April, an ICRC ambulance carrying six injured civilians to hospital was stopped at such a roadblock. The patients did not satisfy the requirements of the control (it is unclear whether they were carrying cards) and were shot dead in front of the ICRC staff who were transporting them. On this occasion the ICRC staff escaped, but over 100 ICRC staff were to lose their lives during the conflict in Rwanda<sup>14</sup>.

Thousands of others were summarily executed at similar such roadblocks all over Rwanda as they tried to escape the violence. Many were killed either because their identity cards stated they were Tutsi, or because they simply looked like members of the Tutsi ethnic group.

#### **Recommended actions:**

Write a letter to your government explaining that those responsible for the killings of thousands of members of the Tutsi ethnic group have not been brought to justice and;

- Ask them to put pressure on the UN to assist the Rwandese authorities to identify, apprehend and bring the perpetrators of this killing to justice.

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<sup>14</sup>See appeal case no. 6

- Ask them to help accelerate the setting up of an international criminal tribunal for Rwanda to begin proceedings as soon as possible.
- Ask them to support the establishment of a permanent international war crimes tribunal, so that governments responsible for crimes against humanity are never allowed impunity.
- Seek assurances that no one suspected of involvement in Rwanda's massacres escapes justice in your country.

Write a letter to the Rwandese authorities<sup>15</sup>;

- Ask them to fully cooperate with the relevant UN bodies who are carrying out inquiries in past and current allegations of human rights violations including crimes against humanity and genocide.
- Asking them to ensure that any identity card system in use in Rwanda at present or in the future does not require the holder to state his or her ethnic group.

**Audio visual materials available:**

- Photo available showing a Rwandese identity card. (See photo order form.)

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<sup>15</sup>Please address no.2 & 3 in the attached government authorities list.



### Appeal case no.6

*Félicitas Niyitegeka was a member of a community of 30 nuns at an Catholic centre in Gisenyi in northwestern Rwanda near the border with Zaire. She was shot dead by members of a militia because she had been accused of sheltering Tutsi who were fleeing from the massacres.*

*"My beloved brother,  
Thank you for wanting to help me. But instead of saving myself and abandoning the 43 people in my care, I have chosen to die with them. Pray for us, that we go to heaven, and bid farewell to my mother and brother. When I am in heaven, I will pray for you. Look after yourself. Thank you for thinking of me.  
Your sister.  
And if God spares us, as we hope, we will see each other again soon."*

*Félicitas Niyitegeka in a letter to her brother*

#### **Background to case:**

*The northwestern areas of Rwanda (around the towns of Gisenyi and Ruhengeri) were generally spared much of the carnage caused by massacres of Tutsi throughout the rest of the country between April and July 1994. The reasons for this could be the low number of Tutsi actually living in the region. The northwestern area of Rwanda was the birthplace of President Habyarimana and his family, many of whom were senior members of the Rwandese Armed Forces. During early 1991, the Rwandese armed forces had been responsible for hundreds, possibly thousands of extrajudicial executions of members of*



*the Tutsi Bagogwe clan living in the area.*

*The Tutsi who were seeking refuge at the Apostolate where Félicitas Niyitegeka lived had mainly come from other parts of Rwanda and were trying to leave the country. Many of them had not been able to pass roadblocks in order to cross the border into Goma in neighbouring Zaire and sought refuge with the nuns. The nuns risked their own lives by sheltering these Tutsi from attacks by militia and others and by helping people cross the border.*

*Despite pleas from her brother, who was an army colonel in Ruhengeri, to leave the country because of the war, Félicitas insisted on staying, saying that she would rather die with the other nuns and those in her care, than escape alone. On 21 April, a militia unit arrived at the apostolate and took the inhabitants, including Félicitas to the cemetery where they found their graves already dug and waiting. However, the militia were apparently anxious not to kill Félicitas (because she was a relative of an army colonel), but she insisted on dying with the others. Because of that she was shot last. The following day, her brother arrived and opened her grave where he found her body lying naked. He dressed the body and reburied it himself.*

**Recommended actions:**

*Write a letter to your government explaining that the killers of a nun named Félicitas Niyitegeka and at least 30 other displaced persons at the apostolate in Gisenyi have not been brought to justice and;*

- *Ask them to put pressure on the UN to assist the Rwandese authorities to identify, apprehend and bring the perpetrators of*

*this killing to justice.*

- *Ask them to help accelerate the setting up of an international criminal tribunal for Rwanda to begin proceedings as soon as possible.*
- *Ask them to support the establishment of a permanent international war crimes tribunal, so that governments responsible for crimes against humanity are never allowed impunity.*
- *Seek assurances that no one suspected of involvement in Rwanda's massacres escapes justice in your country.*

*Send a copy of one of your letters to your own government to the Rwandese authorities<sup>16</sup> with a covering letter asking them to:*

- *Fully cooperate with the relevant UN bodies who are carrying out inquiries into past and current allegations of human rights violations including crimes against humanity and genocide.*

***Audio visual materials available:***

- *Photographs of a church massacre are available from the International Secretariat for Amnesty International members only.<sup>17</sup>*

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<sup>16</sup>Please address no.3 in the attached government authorities list.

<sup>17</sup>Please request Photo Order form for use with Rapid Response Action June 1994, AFR 47/14/94 and refer to photograph nos 16-19.



Appeal case no.7

*Etienne<sup>18</sup>, a young boy of Tutsi appearance who was extrajudicially executed with 20 other similar-looking children at an orphanage in Butare by members of the security forces.*

*Sometimes I think God has abandoned Rwanda and allowed the devil to enter the souls of the people.*

*Expatriate orphanage worker, shocked after witnessing an attack on a 10 year-old child.*

**Background to case:**

*After the killings and the fighting took control of Kigali, many people including the interim government, decided to leave the city and flee to other parts of the country or abroad. The International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC) quickly learned that children, the sick or indeed their own workers were not exempt from killings. Where they could, the ICRC evacuated orphaned children (including those who may have recently lost their parents in the killings), out of Kigali. One such group included 500 children from Kacyiru Orphanage in Kigali who were moved for their own safety, both from armed conflict and massacres, to the southern Rwandese town of Butare. However, killings in Butare began on 20 April when militia units under army escort set up "execution points" in the town. On 24 April between 150 and 170 patients and staff, including children, were killed by such units at Butare hospital. The killings in Butare lasted until the*

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<sup>18</sup>Etienne is not his real name.

RPA took the town in late May. It is alleged by local residents that the RPA carried out revenge killings of army and militia units who they found in the town on arrival.

On 1 May, shortly after the evacuation of the orphans to Butare, a group of people thought to comprise members of the security forces and militia came to the orphanage and picked out 21 children who they believed to be Tutsi. They also selected 13 Red Cross workers for the same reason. The 34 "Tutsi" were then brutally killed with machetes in front of the other children and workers. Many thousands of children believed to be Tutsi, were killed in Rwanda during the massacres. In many cases those who had received formal education were targeted before others.

*Radio Libre Mille Collines (RLMC)*,<sup>19</sup> a radio station which was responsible for the broadcast of inflammatory anti-Tutsi programmes advised its listeners to kill Tutsi children by saying: "To get the rats you have to kill them when they are small."

#### **Recommended actions:**

Write a letter to your government explaining that those responsible for the killings of thousands of members of the Tutsi ethnic group have not been brought to justice and;

- Ask them to put pressure on the UN to assist the Rwandese authorities to identify, apprehend and bring the perpetrators of this killing to justice.

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<sup>19</sup>Free Radio of the Thousand Hills

- *Ask them to help accelerate the setting up of an international criminal tribunal for Rwanda to begin proceedings as soon as possible.*
- *Ask them to support the establishment of a permanent international war crimes tribunal, so that governments responsible for crimes against humanity are never allowed impunity.*
- *Seek assurances that no one suspected of involvement in Rwanda's massacres escapes justice in your country.*

*Send a copy of one of your letters to your own government to the Rwandese authorities<sup>20</sup> with a covering letter asking them to:*

- *Fully cooperate with the relevant UN bodies who are carrying out inquiries into past and current allegations of human rights violations including crimes against humanity and genocide.*
- *Ask them to ensure that any identity card system in use in Rwanda at present or in the future does not require the holder to state his or her ethnic group.*

**Audio visual materials available:**

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<sup>20</sup>Please address no.2 & 3 in the attached government authorities list.

- *Photograph available showing children at the ICRC orphanage in Butare. (See photo order form)*

### Appeal case no.8

**Felicité Dusabi** is a 24 year-old Tutsi woman. She worked as a primary school teacher. She escaped an attack by members of the militia known in Rwanda as the *Interahamwe* in Cyangugu, province of southwestern Rwanda. Thousands of other Tutsi and known or suspected government opponents were deliberately executed in Cyangugu.

*"Eh, miss Teacher, you are still alive?" I said yes, so he demanded money. I had no money. He demanded a watch, which I had already given away, so he took my skirt and let me live. I lay there covered in blood, as they had cut off the head of a woman next to me, and her body covered mine. They continued to beat (dead) bodies with batons, so that when I left I had to walk on human remains. I had on only my underwear and a jumper, the bodies were naked.*

*Felicité Dusabi's account.*

#### **Background to case:**

The war between the RPF and the Rwandese Army resumed on 8 April after killings by the Presidential Guard and others became known in Kigali. The declared aim of the RPF offensive was to save the lives of Tutsi who were being subjected to horrendous human rights violations. At the time the massacres began, the RPF had control of the northern part of Rwanda, and part of Kigali. The RPA quickly took control of eastern Rwanda, but the fight for the extreme south of the country and the southwest was to be long and hard. The consequences for the Tutsi still living in western Rwanda, particularly in Cyangugu and Kibuye provinces were near extinction. At first many of them took refuge in parish churches or medical centres, then



thousands were trapped in terrible conditions in Cyangugu stadium (which was used to shelter displaced people). Some managed to escape across Lake Kivu to refugee camps in Zaire.

After hiding in the bush for two days, Felicité found temporary refuge at the parish of Shanghi near Gafunzi in Cyangugu prefecture. But on 12 April the parish was attacked by gunshots, stones and machetes. Later on the attackers returned armed with grenades to destroy the priest's residence and the church. She thinks some 5,000 people were killed in this attack. A week or so later, around 22 April, the local government administrator (bourgemestre) returned with trucks carrying militia units who attacked the refugees hiding in the church ruins. Felicité escaped being killed and after a night amongst bodies in the church, she then spent some time hiding in a school building. Two Hutu women finally helped her escape to Zaire.

On 23 June France launched *Opération Turquoise*, whose stated aim was to save the remaining Tutsi from further killings. However, it is estimated that at least two thirds of the Tutsi living in southwest Rwanda had been killed by the time French troops entered Rwanda.

On 20 September, UN soldiers found 6,000 bodies in a mass grave near a church in Gafunzi. A further 2,000 bodies were found nearby.

**Recommended actions:**

Write a letter to your government explaining that those responsible for the killings of thousands of members of the Tutsi ethnic group have not been brought to justice and;

- Ask them to put pressure on the UN to assist the Rwandese authorities to identify, apprehend and bring the perpetrators of this killing to justice.
- Ask them to help accelerate the setting up of an international criminal tribunal for Rwanda to begin proceedings as soon as possible.
- Ask them to support the establishment of a permanent international war crimes tribunal, so that governments responsible for crimes against humanity are never allowed impunity.
- Seek assurances that no one suspected of involvement in Rwanda's massacres escapes justice in your country.

Send a copy of one of your letters to your own government to the Rwandese authorities<sup>21</sup> with a covering letter asking them to:

- Fully cooperate with the relevant UN bodies who are carrying out inquiries into past and current allegations of human rights violations including crimes against humanity and genocide.
- Ask them to ensure **Felicité Dusabi and others** who have suffered great personal loss and psychological torture receive appropriate treatment and compensation.

**Audio visual materials available:**

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<sup>21</sup>Please address no.2 & 3 in the attached government authorities list.

- *There is a photograph available showing an empty schoolroom; pupils have been unable to return to school in many parts of the country, due to the extermination of many of their schoolteachers. (See photo order form)*

### Appeal case no.9

*Jean-Marie Vianney Tavaró, a 46 year-old magistrate, was one of the estimated 5,000 displaced held in Cyangugu stadium. They were threatened daily with torture and execution.*

*In the stadium there were around 5,000 people. They would come and kill anyone at any time. During my time there they came five times and killed about 120 people. These people have been killed with knives and were not buried. They were cut in bits and left in the road, or thrown in the river. Six bodies were left in the toilets.*

*Some nights, the gendarmes would rape women. One night at the end of May, the gendarmes tortured two people non-stop all day. At first they beat them, then they gave their victims their batons and made them beat each other.*

*Most of those who survived were children or illiterate. Intellectuals and shop keepers were the first victims.*

*-Jean-Marie Vianney Tavaró's account*

#### **Background to case:**

*Jean-Marie Vianney Tavaró was a resident of Cyangugu who was forced to leave his home and join the many people fleeing from large scale massacres in western Rwanda, by seeking refuge at the stadium*

in Cyangugu. At one point it was estimated that around 5,000 men, women and children were held in the stadium in very bad conditions. In addition, it did not protect all of them from death and torture. The terror many of them had already suffered or witnessed continued to occur on a daily basis, as local officials with gendarmes and militia units came and with lists of people to torture and execute.

On the night of 28 April, a group of around 2,000 refugees attempted a mass escape; the gendarmes opened fire and threw grenades, killing over 500 on that occasion. Jean-Marie was extremely lucky to escape from Cyangugu, and subsequently cross the border into neighbouring Zaire. Intellectuals and professionals, whether Hutu or Tutsi, appeared to be targeted for elimination. The apparent aim of this practice was to eliminate anyone considered to be an opponent of former President Juvénal Habyarimana's and who could potentially serve a democratic government which may include members of the RPF.

#### **Recommended actions:**

Write a letter to your government explaining that those responsible for the killings of known or suspected government opponents of the former Rwandese government and thousands of members of the Tutsi ethnic group have not been brought to justice and;

- Ask them to put pressure on the UN to assist the Rwandese authorities to identify, apprehend and bring the perpetrators of this killing to justice.
- Ask them to help accelerate the setting up of an international

*criminal tribunal for Rwanda to begin proceedings as soon as possible.*

- *Ask them to support the establishment of a permanent international war crimes tribunal, so that governments responsible for crimes against humanity are never allowed impunity.*
- *Seek assurances that no one suspected of involvement in Rwanda's massacres escapes justice in your country.*

*Send a copy of one of your letters to your own government to the Rwandese authorities<sup>22</sup> with a covering letter asking them to:*

- *Fully cooperate with the relevant UN bodies who are carrying out inquiries into past and current allegations of human rights violations including crimes against humanity and genocide.*
- *Ask them to ensure Jean-Marie Vianney Tavaró and others who have suffered great personal loss and psychological torture receive appropriate treatment and compensation.*

**Audio visual materials available:**

- *There is a photograph available showing people living in Kigali stadium, which was also used as a refuge for Tutsi and others who believed themselves at risk from attack from militia units and others. (See photo order form).*

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<sup>22</sup>Please address no.2 & 3 in the attached government authorities list.

### Appeal case no.10

*Sister Beninga, a Tutsi nun who had been in charge of the orphanage in Kabgayi "disappeared" from a seminary that was being used as a displaced persons camp at Kabgayi on 24 May.*

*Among those who have "disappeared", are some who have been selected on lists; the victims of settling of scores, and the victims of soldiers who come with civilians to kill and only to kill.*

*-Resident of Kabgayi camp, questioned by journalists.*

#### **Background to case:**

*After fleeing the initial wave of massacres, many Tutsi sought refuge in makeshift displaced persons camps, which were often religious complexes, large hotels or sports stadiums. In Kabgayi, a catholic religious centre a few kilometres south of Gitarama, the seminary was used as such a refuge, although like many others it was more like a concentration camp, than a place from which its occupants could leave freely. As in many other such "refuges" in Rwanda, soldiers, local officials and militia units would arrive to pick off a few people they considered to be political opponents (usually Tutsi) at night.*

*On 24 May armed units arrived at the Kabgayi seminary camp with a list of names and asked the Archbishop of Kigali<sup>23</sup> who was acting as*

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<sup>23</sup>See appeal case no.12

the head of the camp (the Rwandese interim government and other authorities had their headquarters in nearby Gitarama after heavy fighting had forced them to leave Kigali) for permission to arrest 15 clerics who were sheltered there. The 15 arrested included Sister Beninga. This particular group were apparently selected because the authorities claimed they were suspected of collaborating with the RPF. It seems that a trip abroad by Sister Beninga a few years earlier was a reason for suspecting her.

None of the 15 or others that were abducted from the seminary have been seen since. It seems certain that they were executed. Over 500 people out of around 20,000 sheltering at the camp were said to have been abducted in the same manner or killed in front of others during the last two weeks of May.

**Recommended actions:**

Write a letter to your government explaining that those responsible for the killings of known or suspected government opponents of the former Rwandese government and thousands of members of the Tutsi ethnic group have not been brought to justice and;

- Ask them to put pressure on the UN to assist the Rwandese authorities to identify, apprehend and bring the perpetrators of this killing to justice.
- Ask them to help accelerate the setting up of an international criminal tribunal for Rwanda to begin proceedings as soon as possible.



- *Ask them to support the establishment of a permanent international war crimes tribunal, so that governments responsible for crimes against humanity are never allowed impunity.*
- *Seek assurances that no one suspected of involvement in Rwanda's massacres escapes justice in your country.*

*Send a copy of one of your letters to your own government to the Rwandese authorities<sup>24</sup> with a covering letter asking them to:*

- *Fully cooperate with the relevant UN bodies who are carrying out inquiries into past and current allegations of human rights violations including crimes against humanity and genocide.*

***Audio visual materials available:***

- *There is a photograph available of Kabgayi seminary. (See photo order form)*

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<sup>24</sup>Please address no.2 & 3 in the attached government authorities list.

**Appeal case no.11**

**Brother Célestin,**<sup>25</sup> a Tutsi member of the Josephite order was one of over hundreds of people, many of whom were children, killed by militia at the Parish of Saint André in Nyamirambo, a district in southwest Kigali in early June.

*"You know father, I don't feel sorry for them." The militia then smashed the door of the parish and took away the refugees in truckloads. They were brave people they took, people that we had hidden and lived with for two months. Amongst them, there were many children; orphans of the war and of AIDS. We managed to escape, but a bit later on as we hid by the side of the road we saw the lorry parked less than 200 metres away from the parish. They were in the process of unloading the bodies of people taken from our parish and throwing them into a mass grave, which had obviously been dug in preparation.*

Henri Blanchard, French White Father from Saint André Parish.

**Background to case:**

On 5 June, the headquarters of the UN Assistance Mission to Rwanda (UNAMIR) in Kigali received a letter from a Josephite community which claimed to be in danger. The community included two European White Fathers, who had been living at Saint André Parish in Nyamirambo, had been sheltering hundreds of displaced Tutsi. Those "in hiding" included displaced Tutsi and other members of the religious community. On Tuesday 7 June, a militia unit arrived, assisted by two soldiers, and opened fire on a crowd of Tutsi they found in refuge there. Around 80 people, mainly Tutsi, were killed including Brother

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<sup>25</sup>Brother Céléstin is not his real name.

Céléstin and six other Josephite Brothers. On Wednesday 8 June, a French journalist who came to the parish was fired on and injured by militia members; the two expatriate priests considered this to be an "advertisement" and a warning that they too would be killed. On Friday 10 June at around 3pm, a well-known militia leader arrived saying he had come to evacuate the displaced. The expatriate priests refused to let him in, so the militia proceeded to open fire on the church and threw in teargas grenades, forcing the occupants out. The displaced were loaded onto lorries and taken away amid confusion and shots fired by the militia. Nearby, RPF soldiers were battling for control of Kigali. The lorry returned to pick up another load. Around 170 people were believed to have been taken.

As the two expatriate fathers were leaving the Parish on their way to being evacuated out of Rwanda, they saw the lorry again. This time the lorry was unloading corpses, of which the two priests identified people who they had lived with for the last two months.

On 4 July the RPF finally captured Kigali and the militia killings were finally halted in the town. Nyamirambo, a Hutu stronghold, was one of the last areas to fall. Many Tutsi who had been hiding for months in roofs and pits came to the Parish of St. André to find food and shelter.

#### **Recommended actions:**

Write a letter to your government explaining that those responsible for the killings of several hundred people who were sheltering at St André Parish Church in Nyamirambo and thousand of other people massacred in this district have not been brought to justice and;

- *Ask them to put pressure on the UN to assist the Rwandese authorities to identify, apprehend and bring the perpetrators of this killing to justice.*
- *Ask them to help accelerate the setting up of an international criminal tribunal for Rwanda to begin proceedings as soon as possible.*
- *Ask them to support the establishment of a permanent international war crimes tribunal, so that governments responsible for crimes against humanity are never allowed impunity.*
- *Seek assurances that no one suspected of involvement in Rwanda's massacres escapes justice in your country.*

*Send a copy of one of your letters to your own government to the Rwandese authorities<sup>26</sup> with a covering letter asking them to:*

- *Fully cooperate with the relevant UN bodies who are carrying out inquiries into past and current allegations of human rights violations including crimes against humanity and genocide.*

**Audio visual materials available:**

- *There is a photograph available of an Amnesty International delegate in Nyamirambo. (See photo order form.)*

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<sup>26</sup>Please address no.2 & 3 in the attached government authorities list.

- *There is video footage of Amnesty International in Rwanda which shows delegates examining the wreckage of Nyamirambo district. (See Rwanda Electronic News Release, August 1994<sup>27</sup>)*

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<sup>27</sup> This is available from the International Secretariat.

### Appeal case no.12

*Thadée Nsengiyumva, Bishop of Kabgayi and President of Rwanda's Conference of Catholic Bishops, was a victim of deliberate and arbitrary killing, along with two other bishops and 10 priests by soldiers of the RPA around 5 June.*

*"Aren't you surprised that soldiers who have had their own families massacred have restrained themselves up to now?...Why should you want to use one incident involving four soldiers to show the discipline of our force?"*

*RPF spokesman in response to questions about the killing.*

#### **Background to case:**

*At the beginning of June 1994, soldiers of the RPA captured the seat of the interim Rwandese government at Gitarama and moved south towards the southern town of Butare. Just south of Gitarama they took the town of Kabgayi, where many people had been living for weeks in the seminary under the "protection" of high ranking clergymen<sup>28</sup>. The RPA "liberated" the two towns and captured a number of Rwandese soldiers and government officials. They also arrested a number of Rwanda's leading clergymen who were at the seminary including Thadée Nsengiyumva and Vincent Nsengiyumva, the Archbishop of Kigali.*

*On Wednesday 8 June, Radio Muhubura<sup>29</sup> announced that four RPA soldiers were responsible for the killing of 13 prominent clergymen, including the Archbishop of Kigali and Bishop of Kabgayi in a "revenge*

<sup>28</sup>See appeal case no.9.

<sup>29</sup>Radio Muhubura was at the time the official RPF-run radio station.

shooting" while they were under the guard of eight RPA soldiers near Kabgayi. The date was not given, but subsequent reports suggest that the killing occurred on Sunday 5 June.

The RPF subsequently declared that the combatants had been assigned to the bishops as their bodyguards. On 9 June RPF leaders announced that one of the killers had been shot dead by fellow soldiers as he fled and that the other three had escaped. RPF leaders explained that the combatants seemed to have carried out the killings because they suspected the priests of complicity in the killing of members of their families, including some Tutsi who had sought shelter at Kabgayi seminary.

One priest who managed to survive and escape from the killings claimed that some of the soldiers who had been guarding the priests entered the room where the priests were being held and opened fire. He was later pressured by RPA soldiers into claiming the shooting was an accident.

Members of the Rwandese government told Amnesty International in August that the three killers who had escaped had never been found<sup>30</sup>.

#### **Recommended actions:**

Write a letter to the Rwandese authorities<sup>31</sup> stating your concern at the summary execution of **Thadée Nsengiyumva 12 other clergymen on 5 June 1994** and;

<sup>30</sup>See *Rwanda: Reports of killings and abductions by the Rwandese Patriotic Army, April-August 1994, October 1994*. AFR 47/16/94

<sup>31</sup>Please address authorities 1, 2, 3 in the attached government authorities

- *Ask the government to implement Amnesty International's 14-point program with a view to ending the practice of extrajudicial and summary execution.*
- *Explain that you feel that there has not been an adequate (full and impartial) investigation into the killings at Kabgayi. Ask the government to properly investigate the incident at Kabgayi and all other allegations of abuses committed by members of the RPA since 7 April 1994 and bring the perpetrators to justice in respect of relevant international standards for fair trial.*

*Audio visual materials available:*

- *Photo available of Rwanda's leading Bishops. (See photo order form)*



### Appeal case no.13

*Violette Mukabutera, a Hutu woman from southern Rwanda is a victim of attempted extrajudicial execution.*

*My child was with me [on her back], but because we had been found, we were told to lie on our fronts. My child was hit by a nail-studded club and was killed. I was hit as well, but I was left for dead. When I regained consciousness, I carried on...*

*Violette's testimony.*

#### **Background to case:**

After RPA forces took control of the region of Bugesera in southeastern Rwanda in May, there were numerous reports from local people that the forces were carrying out executions of members of the Hutu ethnic group in southern Rwanda. Some of the witnesses to these attacks, including some who had survived attempts to kill them, fled to neighbouring Burundi.

Violette Mukabutera formerly resident in Kigali prefecture's rural Ngenda district, and many others who had been hiding in sorghum fields in Muyira district in Butare prefecture after the RPA took control of the area, began returning home when they heard that the RPA had stopped killings. They handed themselves over to the RPA and were taken to a "screening" centre at Rutonde where they were detained. On her second day there young men were taken away; on the third day her husband was taken away. A man who had been

taken away with her husband managed to return and reported that those taken away, including her husband, had been tied up, hit on the head and killed, and that their corpses were being thrown into a river nearby. Some of the women detainees were allegedly taken away by RPA soldiers and raped, and possibly killed afterwards. Violette tried to escape with her child of 13 months strapped to her back but was subsequently recaptured with several other women escapees by RPA soldiers. The soldiers killed two other women with blows to the head and killed her child. Violette was hit on the head with a nail-studded club but survived. She subsequently managed to escape.

Amnesty International has received many reports of deliberate and arbitrary killings by members of the RPA, carried out both before and after the RPF formed a government on 19 July<sup>32</sup>.

#### *Recommended actions:*

Write a letter to the Rwandese authorities<sup>33</sup> stating your concern at the attempted execution of Violette Mukubutera, the killing of her child and the "disappearance" of her husband and;

- Ask the government to implement Amnesty International's 14-point program with a view to ending the practice of extrajudicial and summary execution.

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<sup>32</sup>See "Rwanda: Reports of killings and abductions by the Rwandese Patriotic Army, April- August 1994. AFR 47/16/94

<sup>33</sup>Please address authorities 1, 2, 3 in the attached government authorities list.

- *Ask the government to investigate all allegations of abuses committed by members of the RPA since 7 April 1994 and bring the perpetrators to justice in accordance with relevant international standards for fair trial.*

***Audio visual materials available:***

- *There is a photograph available of Violette Mukabutera. (See photo order form.)*
- *There is video footage available. (See Rwanda ENR October 1994 <sup>34</sup>)*

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<sup>34</sup>*This can be requested from the International Secretariat.*

### Appeal case no.14

*Julienne Mukanyarwaya, a Hutu supporter of Rwanda's Social Democratic Party was asked to join the militia responsible for thousands of deaths. She was arrested by the RPF in May at Kabuga, just outside Kigali and is still awaiting trial.*

*I was never in the MRND or the CDR. They forced people in other parties to join the Interahamwe. We were forced. I was captured from the village and instructed to kill people. The first people I killed were opposed to the MRND. I killed three people, three men. I knew them, they were my neighbours.*

*It was very sad to me. But I didn't have any alternative, because the government soldiers were behind me with guns. I lost my child. When I refused to kill, the government soldiers banged a gun on my child's head and she died. She was six weeks old.*

*Julienne's testimony*

#### **Background to case:**

*Julienne was one of the many women and men who became members of the Interahamwe of the hard line Hutu militia units that was responsible for thousands of killings in Rwanda. In many cases, people were incited and often forced to kill their fellow villagers, neighbours and in some cases, members of their own family, who were politically opposed to the genocide or refused to take part.*

*As the RPF took control of the country, some Hutu suspected of being Interahamwe members were killed in revenge by RPF soldiers, or local Tutsi. Some, like Julienne who was arrested at Kabuga<sup>35</sup> in central*

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<sup>35</sup>Amnesty International does not know if Julienne Mukanyarwaya is being held at Kabuga.

Rwanda in May, escaped immediate retribution but may be held for many months in makeshift and overcrowded prisons before trials are underway. Some of the prisoners allege that they have also been subjected to torture or other forms of cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment. Although Julienne was unlucky to lose her child, other women held by the RPF have their children to look after in custody, often in filthy living conditions.

In August Amnesty International representatives visited Rwanda and found Kigali central Prison, the main criminal detention centre in Rwanda, empty. The prison buildings were in a terrible state of disrepair and the interior of the prison was filthy. The Minister of Justice explained how the prison could not be used unless drastic repairs and financing restored it to a suitable place of detention. Two weeks after the departure of the delegation, it was understood that 2,000 prisoners were transferred there.

Under Rwandese law, Julienne could be sentenced to death if and when she is tried.

**Recommended actions:**

Write a letter to your own government stating your concern about this case and;

- Ask your government to assert pressure at the UN to urge the international community to assist Rwanda in establishing fair trials at once.

Write a letter to the Rwandese authorities<sup>36</sup> stating your concern at the plight of thousands of Rwandese being held in deplorable conditions awaiting trial and;

- Ask the government to ensure that all prisoners are given access to their families.
- Ask the government to ensure that the prisoners are vetted and only kept if there is specific evidence against them which could result in their conviction by a court; urge that any who are held on the basis of hearsay or confessions under duress be released.
- Urge that anyone who is to be tried should be given legal representation.
- Ask the government to treat all prisoners humanely and to give orders to its armed forces that ill-treatment and torture will not be tolerated and those found responsible for committing torture will be brought to justice.
- Explain that Amnesty International and others are urging the UN to work with the Rwandese authorities in bringing those responsible for killings in Rwanda to justice.
- Ask the government to abolish the death penalty, arguing that one death does not avenge another.

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<sup>36</sup>Please address authorities 1, 2, 3 in the attached government authorities list.

*Audio visual materials available:*

- *There is a photograph available showing suspected members of the Interahamwe held by RPA soldiers. (See photo order form).*
- *There is video footage available showing prisoners held by the RPF and the interior of Kigali prison just days before it was filled with prisoners. (See Rwanda ENR, August 1994<sup>37</sup>)*

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<sup>37</sup>*On request from the International Secretariat.*

### Appeal case no.15

*Sylvestre Kamali, a Hutu, is a former Rwandese ambassador and President of the Gisenyi branch of the Mouvement démocratique républicain (MDR) the Democratic Republican Movement, the largest opposition party in Rwanda when President Juvénal Habyarimana was in power. He is currently held without having the possibility of challenging either the legal basis for his detention or accusations against him. He is accused of involvement in the massacre of Tutsi between April and July 1994. The accusations have not been the subject of an independent investigation. Reports suggest that Sylvestre Kamali is being held because of his political opinions, if this is indeed the case, he may be a prisoner of conscience.*

*The soldiers only asked for his vehicle registration card when they arrested him. He said "It must be a mistake. If the President or the Prime Minister learns of this, I will be freed". The soldiers advised him to write a letter. A military official told journalists that Sylvestre Kamali had been indifferent to the genocide. Now he is accused of genocide.*

*-Monique Kamali (Sylvestre Kamali's daughter.)*

#### **Background to case:**

*Sylvestre Kamali was arrested at a roadblock in Kigali by RPA soldiers on 14 July, apparently after he was accused of involvement in massacres perpetrated mainly against Tutsi. However, the reasons for his arrest and the location his place of detention was not made public until several weeks after his arrest, despite numerous appeals to the authorities by Amnesty International and others. He was interviewed*



in August 1994 by Amnesty International delegates at Rulima Prison in southern Rwanda. He was held for several weeks without being informed of the reasons for his detention. The accusations were made known to him by a journalist who interviewed him. He apparently thought he had been arrested for a traffic offence. After numerous inquiries about his case by foreign organizations, the authorities assisted his wife (who lives in Kigali) to visit him. He has since been transferred to Kigali Central Prison.

It appears that he may have been arrested on the basis of denunciations; that is an allegation against him which is not substantiated by other testimony or evidence. Such denunciations have so far led to the arrest of over 6,000 Rwandese, almost entirely of the Hutu ethnic group.

In January 1993 his home in Gisenyi was destroyed in an arson attack. The house where the family moved to in Kigali was also invaded twice by armed gangs and during February 1993 attempts were reportedly made to kill him and his wife, who is a member of the Tutsi ethnic group. It seems that the family was targeted at the time for its opposition to the policies of former President Habyarimana. The case of the Kamali family was taken up by Amnesty International in August 1993. There are reports that his current detention relates to his support of a faction of the MDR opposed to Prime Minister Faustin Twagiramungu, who is also a leader of the MDR.

**Recommended actions:**

Write a letter to the Rwandese authorities<sup>38</sup> stating your concern at the arrest of *Sylvestre Kamali* and;

- Seek assurances that arrests are not made on the basis of denunciations.
- In addition, seek assurances that arrest are not made on the basis of non-violent political opposition to the government in order to prevent the detention of prisoners of conscience, that is, those held on the basis of their ethnic origin or political views.
- Ask for the establishment of an independent body to review the cases of those arrested and held for involvement in massacres in order to ascertain whether their continuing long term detention without trial is justified<sup>39</sup>.
- Ask the Rwandese government to abolish the death penalty, arguing that one death does not avenge another.

Write a letter to your own government about the case of *Sylvestre*

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<sup>38</sup>Please address authorities 1, 2, 3 in the attached government authorities list.

<sup>39</sup> Amnesty International considers that *Sylvestre Kamali* and others held by the Rwandese authorities may be prisoners of conscience, however in the absence of normal legal authorities (Rwanda's infrastructure has been largely destroyed by the war) it is difficult to implement recognized international standards in judicial procedures and thus to confirm who is a prisoner of conscience. Normally, Amnesty International seeks the immediate and unconditional release of prisoners of conscience.

*Kamali and;*

- *Ask them to assist the Rwandese authorities in bringing to justice those responsible for massacres between April and July in accordance with international standards as soon as possible.*

*Audio visual materials available:*

- *There is a photograph of Sylvestre Kamali available. (See photo order form)*

## *Rwanda Appeal cases*

### *Rwanda government authorities for use in appeals*

1. *Président Pasteur BIZIMUNGU*  
*Présidence de la république*  
*BP 15*  
*Kigali*  
*Rwanda*
  
2. *Prime Minister Faustin TWAGIRAMUNGU*  
*Présidence de la république*  
*BP 15*  
*Kigali*  
*Rwanda*
  
3. *Monsieur Alphonse-Marie NKUBITO*  
*Ministre de la justice*  
*Ministère de la justice*  
*Kigali*  
*Rwanda*
  
4. *Major General Paul Kagame*  
*Minister of Defence*  
*Présidence de la république*  
*BP 15*  
*Kigali*  
*Rwanda*

*As there is currently no postal service to Rwanda (November 1994)  
please send all appeals care of the RPF representatives in Belgium at the  
following address:*

*RPF  
3, rue de l'Observatoire  
Bruxelles  
Belgium*