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RELEASED IN FULL

Mr. Peter D. Eicher
Counselor
Permanent Mission of the United States to the United Nations
11, route de Pregny
1292 CHAMBEZY

3 May 1994

Dear Mr. Eicher,

I am sending you herewith a news service issued on 4 May by Amnesty International in which the organisation calls for an urgent UN Commission on Human Rights reaction to the human rights crisis in both Burundi and Rwanda.

Given the appalling level and persistence of human rights violations in Rwanda and the impending danger of a further deterioration in Burundi, which go unchecked as the international community passively looks on as the massacres continue, Amnesty International is urgently calling for:

1. a joint mission of the relevant working groups and special rapporteurs of the Commission on Human Rights to both Rwanda and Burundi
2. the holding, without delay, of a special session of the Commission on Human Rights to take appropriate action, and in particular to follow up on the recommendations of the joint mission

The attached news service details some concrete steps that could be taken by the Commission on Human Rights in this context.

Amnesty International strongly hopes that UN Member States such as yours will live up to their responsibilities and will seize the opportunity open to all of them to call for a special session of the Commission on Human Rights, as provided for in ECOSOC Decision 1993/286: this exceptional option is specifically designed for such exceptional human rights crisis as in Rwanda/Burundi and cannot be overlooked in the search for immediate measures to stop further massacre and widespread torture.

I look forward to receiving any comments and reactions you may have to this proposal and would very much welcome the opportunity to discuss them with you or someone from your staff.

Yours sincerely and respectfully,

Isabelle Scherer

Amnesty International Representative to the UN

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