

URGENT ACTION

PROMINENT JOURNALIST RELEASED

Journalist Bob Rugurika was released on bail on 19 February 2015 after being detained for a month. The Bujumbura Court of Appeal ordered his provisional release on 18 February 2015 with his bail set at Burundi francs 15,000,000 (around 9,430 US\$). He was released on condition that he appears monthly before the relevant investigating magistrate and does not leave the country without the magistrate's authorization.

Bob Rugurika, Director of African Public Radio (Radio Publique Africaine, RPA) remains at risk of persecution following the broadcasting of investigative reports concerning the murder of three elderly Italian nuns in Bujumbura, in September 2014 on RPA. On one of these reports, Bob Rugurika interviewed an individual alleged to have participated to the murder of the nuns who alleged that senior intelligence officials were also involved in this act.

Bob Rugurika is charged with complicity in the murder of the three elderly Italian nuns, obstructing the course of justice through violating confidentiality of a criminal investigation, harboring a criminal and lacking public solidarity. Two of the charges carry jail sentences of up to 20 years each.

Over recent years, Bob Rugurika has been repeatedly threatened and harassed. The latest detention and judicial harassment appear to be politically motivated.

No further action is requested of the UA network. Many thanks to those who sent appeals. This is the first update of UA 17/15. Further information:<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AFR16/0001/2015/en/>.

Name: Bob Rugurika (m)

Issues: Human rights defender, Arbitrary detention, Freedom of expression

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