



Press Release

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SECRETARY-GENERAL PRAISES FORBEARANCE AND RESTRAINT SHOWN IN BURUNDI,
SINCE TRAGIC DEATH OF PRESIDENT ON 6 APRIL

The following statement was issued today by the spokeswoman in Europe for Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali:

The Secretary-General is pleased to learn from his Special Representative for Burundi, Ahmedou Ould Abdallah, that the situation in the country is calm and peaceful since the tragic death of President Cyprien Ntaryamira on 6 April. Simeon Ake, the Chairman of the United Nations Preparatory Fact-finding Mission to Burundi, which has been in the country since 22 March, has confirmed to the Secretary-General that, on the whole, the situation in the country was peaceful and that the Mission continued to receive the cooperation of all concerned in the exercise of its task. The Mission is expected to conclude its work in Burundi at the end of next week and to return to New York on 21 April to report to the Secretary-General, after consultations with the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in Addis Ababa.

The Secretary-General is particularly gratified that the leaders of the country are working together in this period of national tragedy to meet their responsibilities to the people of Burundi. The people of Burundi themselves have responded to the tragedy with exemplary forbearance and restraint. They need and deserve the support and cooperation of the international community in their praiseworthy efforts to maintain the peace in the country and to put in place an interim arrangement which will enjoy their full confidence. They can continue to count on such support and cooperation from the United Nations.

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