

URGENT ACTION

MISSING JOURNALIST REAPPEARS IN RWANDA

John Ndabarasa, a journalist who had been missing since 7 August 2016, reappeared in Kigali, Rwanda and spoke to local media on 6 March.

According to comments reported on a local news website, Umuryango.com, **John Ndabarasa** said that he had fled Rwanda as he was afraid of being prosecuted after some of his relatives fled the country and others were arrested. John Ndabarasa spoke to the media on 6 March.

John Ndabarasa, a journalist and award-winning singer, had been missing since 7 August 2016. Around the time of the disappearance, a friend reported that John Ndabarasa had sent him a text message saying that he was going to Uganda, but his family did not believe that he had left the country. A police investigation was announced on 30 August 2016.

It was not clear whether his disappearance could have been related to his work as a journalist or his family connections to Joel Mutabazi, his brother-in-law. Joel Mutabazi is President Kagame's former bodyguard and is serving a life sentence for treason having been convicted of treason in a proceeding that did not comply with international fair trial standards and after having been forcibly returned from Uganda where he had refugee status.

No further action is requested of the UA network. Many thanks to those who sent appeals.

This is the first update of UA 49/17. Further information: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr47/5747/2017/en/>

Further information on UA: 49/17 Index: AFR 47/5858/2017 Issue Date: 13 March 2017

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