

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on EXTRA 90/92 (AFR 17/16/92, 30 October 1992) - Fear of torture/legal concern

CAMEROON: John Fru Ndi, chairman of the Social Democratic Front (SDF) and about 150 SDF supporters

and hundreds of others arrested in Bamenda including:

Ngalla Nfor, SDF official

Peter Ngufor, businessman

Francis Sama, lawyer

Ophelia R. Sendze (female), lawyer

Justice Nyo Wakai, former President of the Supreme Court

Following the lifting of the State of Emergency in North-West Province on 30 December 1992, most emergency detainees are believed to have been released.

Amnesty International welcomes the releases and asks whether all State of Emergency detainees in North-West Province and opposition supporters detained in other parts of the country have all been released. Amnesty International is also calling for an independent, judicial and open investigation into reports of widespread torture or ill-treatment which resulted in at least one death in detention (see follow-up to UA 365/92 AFR 17/03/93, 10 February 1992).

On 23 December 1992 the High Court in Bamenda ordered the release of over 170 emergency detainees held by the security police in Bamenda. The government challenged this decision, saying that the court did not have jurisdiction to release administrative detainees. They were transferred to detention in Yaoundé but were released on 31 December 1992 after their cases had been reviewed by the State Security Court.

After massive demonstrations in Bamenda by supporters of the opposition party, the Social Democratic Front (SDF), and under increasing international pressure, the state of emergency was lifted on 30 December 1992. SDF leader John Fru Ndi and about 150 of his supporters were released from their house arrest in Bamenda. They had been restricted at John Fru Ndi's compound, effectively detained, since 25 October 1992.

It was not clear, however, whether all emergency detainees in North-West Province and administrative detainees held in other parts of the country had been released. Opposition supporters had also been detained outside North-West Province, in some cases illegally. In Kumba, South-West Province, and in Rey Bouba, Northern Province, local traditional rulers reportedly detained opposition supporters with the knowledge of the local government authorities; in Kumba, such detainees were reported to have been tortured.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters

- welcoming the releases at the end of December 1992 of over 170 detainees arrested following the imposition of a State of Emergency in North-West province in October 1992;
- asking whether all those held under the State of Emergency have now been released, and whether detainees held in other parts of the country, for example, by traditional rulers in Kumba, South-West Province, and Rey Bouba, Northern

Province, have now been released and calling for any who may still be held to be released unless they are to be charged with recognizably criminal offences and fairly tried.

APPEALS TO:

1) President:

Son Excellence Monsieur Paul Biya
Président de la République
Palais de l'Unité
Yaoundé, Cameroon

Telegrams: President Biya, Yaounde, Cameroon

Faxes: + 237 221699

Telexes: 8207 PRESID KN (Secretariat général)
8595 PRESID B KN (Cabinet civil)

Salutation: Monsieur le Président de la République / Dear President

2) Prime Minister:

Mr Simon Achidi Achu
Prime Minister
Prime Minister's Office
Immeuble Etoile
Yaoundé, Cameroon

Telegrams: Prime Minister Achu, Yaounde, Cameroon

Faxes: + 237 235765

Telexes: 8282 KN

Salutation: Dear Prime Minister / Monsieur le Premier Ministre

3) Minister of Internal Affairs:

M. Gilbert Andzé Tsoungui
Ministre de l'Administration territoriale
Ministère de l'Administration territoriale
1000 Yaoundé 4, Cameroon

Telegrams: Ministre de l'Administration territoriale Tsoungui, Yaounde, Cameroon

Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Dear Minister

4) Mr Luc-René Bell

Governor of North-West Province
Governor's Office
5000 Bamenda, Cameroon

Telegrams: North-West Province Governor Ngolle, Bamenda, Cameroon

Salutation: Monsieur le Gouverneur / Dear Governor

COPIES OF SOME OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Cameroon Post, BP 1981, Yaoundé, Cameroon
Postwatch, PO Box 235, Bamenda, Cameroon
Our People, BP 244, Bamenda, Cameroon
Peuple d'Afrique, BP 1287, Yaoundé, Cameroon
L'Expression, BP 5646, Douala, Cameroon
La Gazette, BP 5485, Douala, Cameroon
Dikalo, BP 12656, Douala, Cameroon

Challenge Nouveau, BP 13088, Douala, Cameroon

and to diplomatic representatives of Cameroon accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 24 March 1993.

