

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 100/93 (AFR 17/04/93, 6 April 1993) - Fear of Torture/Legal Concern/Medical Concern

CAMEROON: Some 150 members and supporters of opposition political parties including:

Dr Victorin François Hameni Bieleu, president of the Union des forces démocratiques du Cameroun (UFDC), Union of Democratic Forces of Cameroon

Dr André Kekuine, Secretary General of the UFDC

All those detained on 31 March and 1 April 1993 were released on the evening of 8 April 1993.

On 30 March 1993, the day before the arrests, the government had announced a ban on all demonstrations which might result in violence. Although it claimed that those arrested on 31 March 1993 at the headquarters of the Union des forces démocratiques du Cameroun (UFDC), Union of Democratic Forces of Cameroon, were planning a violent demonstration, no charges were brought against them and it appeared that they had been detained solely because of their peaceful opposition to the government.

Some of those detained, including the UFDC's president, Dr Victorin François Hameni Bieleu, were beaten at the time of their arrest or during their detention.

The UFDC is among several opposition parties in the Union for Change (Union pour le changement) which disputes the results of the presidential elections in October 1992. President Paul Biya was re-elected, narrowly defeating his main rival, John Fru Ndi of the Social Democratic Front (SDF). There were reports of widespread electoral fraud. In March 1993 the Union for Change called for a series of demonstrations to protest against the government of President Biya. On 23 March 1993 the government announced that it would organize a national debate on constitutional reform by the end of May 1993.

However, on 6 April 1993 John Fru Ndi announced that he planned to hold a separate national conference to discuss the political future of Cameroon.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters either in French, English or your own language:

- welcoming the release of members and supporters of opposition political parties arrested on 31 March and 1 April 1993, but expressing concern that they appear to have been detained because of their non-violent opposition to the government;

- expressing concern also about reports that some were ill-treated at the

time of their arrest and during their detention, and requesting an investigation into these reports.

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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 (Secrétariat 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'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 Administration territoriale Tsoungui, Yaoundé,
Cameroon**

Salutation: Dear Minister/Monsieur le Ministre

4) Secretary of State:

M. Jean Fochivé
Secrétaire d'Etat
à la Sécurité intérieure
Yaoundé, Cameroon

Telegrams: M. Fochivé, Sécurité intérieure, Yaoundé, Cameroon

Salutation: Dear Secretary of State/Monsieur le Secrétaire d'Etat

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

any one of the following newspapers:

Cameroon Tribune, BP 1218, Yaoundé, Cameroon
Cameroon Post, BP 1981, Yaoundé, 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 26 May 1993