

URGENT ACTION

FOUR AT RISK OF TORTURE IN EQUATORIAL GUINEA

Four Equatorial Guinean refugees are believed to have been abducted from Benin by security forces from Equatorial Guinea, and returned to their native country. The authorities there have not confirmed the whereabouts of the four men or even whether they are holding them, leading to fears that they are at risk of enforced disappearance. They are at risk of torture or other ill-treatment.

The four men, **José Abeso, Miguelín Eyegue and two others** whose names are not known, are former soldiers who left Equatorial Guinea in the early 1990s. Since then, they have been living in Benin, where they have refugee status.

According to sources in Equatorial Guinea, the men were abducted around 28 January by members of the Equatorial Guinean security forces. Sources state that the four arrived at Black Beach prison, in Equatorial Guinea's capital, Malabo, the next day. They are believed to be held incommunicado, and reports suggest that they have been tortured. The authorities have not confirmed that they are holding the four men.

Amnesty International has previously received numerous reports of the abduction of Equatorial Guinean refugees in neighbouring countries by Equatorial Guinean security personnel.

PLEASE WRITE IMMEDIATELY in Spanish or your own language:

- Calling on the authorities to publicly reveal the whereabouts of José Abeso, Miguelín Eyegue and two other men, who are feared to have been abducted from Benin by Equatorial Guinean security personnel;
- Calling for the four men to be given immediate access to a lawyer, relatives and any necessary medical care;
- If the four are in Equatorial Guinean custody, urging that they are treated humanely, and are not tortured or otherwise ill-treated;
- Calling for an investigation into the alleged abduction, the result made public and those found to be responsible brought to justice.
- Urging the authorities to end the practice of abducting Equatorial Guinean citizens from other countries.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 09 APRIL 2010 TO:

President

General Teodoro Obiang Nguema
Mbasogo
Presidente de la República
Gabinete del Presidente de la
República, Malabo, Equatorial Guinea
Fax: +240 09 3313/ 3334
Salutation: Excelencia/Your Excellency

Attorney General

Sr Don Carlos Mangué
Fiscal General de la República,
Fiscalía General de la República,
Malabo, Equatorial Guinea
Fax: +240 09 1338
**Salutation: Sr Fiscal/Dear Attorney
General**

Minister of National Security

Sr Don Nicolás Obama Nchama
Ministro de Seguridad Nacional,
Dirección General de Seguridad
Nacional, Malabo, Equatorial Guinea
Fax: +240 09 8259
Salutation: Sr. Ministro/Dear Minister

COPIES TO: Vice Prime Minister responsible for Human Rights, Salomón Nguema Owono, Presidencia del Gobierno, Malabo, Equatorial Guinea. **Fax: +240 09 9544**

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives of Equatorial Guinea accredited to your country. Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Amnesty International has frequently received information about the abduction of Equatorial Guinean refugees in neighbouring countries by Equatorial Guinean security personnel, sometimes in connivance with security personnel in those countries. In 2004, five Equatorial Guineans were arrested in Libreville, Gabon, and handed over to the Equatorial Guinean authorities. After being held incommunicado for two years, they were charged with undermining the security of the state and treason, and then subjected to an unfair trial and given prison sentences of up to 20 years. In 2005, four Equatorial Guinean refugees living in Benin and Nigeria were arrested and abducted by Equatorial Guinea security personnel in connivance with Nigerian security personnel. They were tried in their absence (despite the fact that they were in the country), in September 2005 at an unfair trial and sentenced to long prison terms. One was released after a presidential pardon in June 2008. However, the other three were held incommunicado in Black Beach prison until the end of January 2010, when they were transferred to cells with other prisoners. They are now being treated in the same way as other prison inmates. On 8 October 2008 Cipriano Nguema, a refugee in Cameroon, was illegally arrested by Cameroonian security forces personnel, handed over to Equatorial Guinean security forces, and transferred to Black Beach prison. The Equatorial Guinean authorities have not acknowledged his detention. However, he was seen by the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture during his visit to the prison in November 2008. Two other men were abducted in Nigeria in December 2008 and taken to Bata prison in Equatorial Guinea. The authorities have not acknowledged their detention.

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