

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Arbitrary arrest / torture / medical concern

8 March 1994

**EQUATORIAL GUINEA: Norberto "Tito" Mba Nze, aged 37, car mechanic,
representative of the *Convergencia para la Democracia Social* (CPDS),
Convergence for Social Democracy**

Amnesty International has been informed of the unlawful arrest and torture of Norberto "Tito" Mba Nze, the representative of the CPDS in Akonibe, in the south east of the mainland province of Río Muni. Amnesty International fears that he is at risk of further torture while held unlawfully in incommunicado detention.

Norberto Mba Nze was apparently arrested on 28 February 1994 by the government representative in Akonibe, after he had made comments about the behaviour of this representative to the provincial governor. Since then, he has been held incommunicado at Akonibe police station where he has reportedly been severely tortured on a number of occasions - in particular he has been badly beaten all over the body with a rifle butt and forced to lie in the sun for hours.

Norberto Mba Nze has reportedly sustained damage to the kidneys, has been passing blood in his urine, and has several open wounds. He has been denied medical treatment.

Norberto Mba Nze has been briefly detained on previous occasions for his peaceful political activities. His most recent arrest was in March 1993 when he was detained for a few days after distributing copies of *La Verdad* (The Truth), the CPDS newspaper.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Human rights violations in Equatorial Guinea increased sharply in the run-up to the November 1993 elections, the first multi-party elections since independence in 1968, which were won by the ruling *Partido Democrático de Guinea Ecuatorial* (PDGE), Equatorial Guinea Democratic Party. The elections were boycotted by eight opposition parties, including the CPDS.

Since the elections at least 100 people have been arbitrarily arrested for allegedly failing to vote in the elections: most have been tortured or ill-treated. Intimidation of peaceful political activists, particularly those who boycotted the elections, has continued into 1994.

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

- expressing concern about the unlawful imprisonment and torture of Norberto Mba Nze, who was arrested on 28 February 1994 in Akonibe;
- expressing concern at reports that he continues to be subjected to severe torture, and that as long as he is in incommunicado detention he remains at risk of further torture;
- urging that he be allowed immediate access to his family, lawyer, and to any medical care that he may need;
- asking that reports of torture be thoroughly investigated, the results made public and that anyone responsible for using or ordering torture be brought to justice;
- urging that unless he is charged with a recognizably criminal offence he

be immediately and unconditionally released.

APPEALS TO

1) President

General de Brigada Obiang Nguema Mbasogo
 Presidente de la República
 Gabinete del Presidente de la República
 Malabo, República de Guinea Ecuatorial

Telegrams: Presidente Obiang Nguema, Malabo, Guinea Ecuatorial

Telexes: 5405 GBNOM 5405 EG

Faxes: + 240-9 3313

Salutation: Su Excelencia/Your Excellency

2) Prime Minister

Silvestre Siale Bileka
 Primer Ministro
 Gabinete del Primer Ministro
 Malabo, República de Guinea Ecuatorial

Telegrams: Primer Ministro Siale Bileka, Malabo, Guinea Ecuatorial

Telexes: 5405 GBNOM 5405 EG

Salutation: Excelentísimo Señor/Dear Prime Minister

3) Minister of Justice

Francisco Javier Ndong Bengono
 Ministro de Justicia y Culto
 Ministerio de Justicia y Culto
 Malabo, República de Guinea Ecuatorial

Telegrams: Ministro de Justicia Ndong Bengono, Malabo, Guinea Ecuatorial

Telexes: 5405 GBNOM 5405 EG

Salutation: Excelentísimo Señor/Dear Minister

4) Foreign Minister

Miguel Oyono Ndong Mifumu
 Ministro de Asuntos Exteriores
 Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores
 Malabo, República de Guinea Ecuatorial

Telegrams: Ministro de Asuntos Exteriores, Oyono Ndong, Malabo, Guinea Ecuatorial

Telexes: 5405 GBNOM 5405 EG

Faxes: +240-9 2320

Salutation: Excelentísimo Señor/Dear Minister

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO: diplomatic representatives of Equatorial Guinea in your country

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 19 April 1994.