

URGENT ACTION

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER CHARGED

Dr Wenceslao Mansogo Alo, arrested on what appear to be political grounds, has been charged with offences relating to the death of a patient at his clinic. The charges appear to be linked to his human rights work and political activities.

Wenceslao Mansogo Alo, a doctor and political activist, was charged on 12 March with professional negligence (*impericia profesional*) and mutilation of a body (*profanación de cadaver*). No trial date has yet been set.

Wenceslao Mansogo Alo has not been ill-treated in prison and is allowed to receive visits from his wife and lawyers. After delays, on 28 February the investigating judge had rejected the appeal lodged by Wenceslao Mansogo Alo's lawyer calling for him to be released as he had committed no crime. The appeal was then remitted to the Provincial Attorney Office in Bata and then to the president of the Bata Appeal Court, who on 7 March rejected the appeal. The defence then had five days to announce their intention to appeal to the Supreme Court. Following consultations with Wenceslao Mansogo Alo, they decided not to proceed with the appeal. Given the political nature of the case, they had doubts that a further appeal would be dealt with impartially, and the appeal would only prolong the imprisonment without charge of Wenceslao Mansogo Alo. However, on 12 March, before the deadline, Wenceslao Mansogo was formally charged, although no evidence has yet been presented against him and the reports of medical inquiries exonerated him of both charges.

On 16 February, representatives of the ministry of health in Bata attempted to close down Wenceslao Mansogo Alo's clinic but were prevented by his wife and lawyers, who demanded a judicial order. No further attempts have been made to close the clinic.

Please write immediately in Spanish or your own language:

■ Calling on the authorities to release Wenceslao Mansogo Alo immediately and unconditionally, as he is a prisoner of conscience, detained solely because of his work as a human rights defender and activist.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 3 MAY 2012 TO:

****The fax numbers may not work after 3.30pm (GMT+1). Please keep trying.****

President

General Teodoro Obiang Nguema
Mbasogo
Presidente de la República
Gabinete del Presidente de la
República,
Malabo,
Equatorial Guinea
Fax: +240 333 09 3313/ 3334
**Salutation: Excelencia/Your
Excellency**

Attorney General

Sr Don Carlos Mangué
Fiscan General de la República
Fiscalía General de la República,
Malabo,
Equatorial Guinea
Fax: +240 333 09 1338
**Salutation: Sr Fiscal/Dear
Attorney General**

Vice-Prime Minister and Minister of Health

Salomón Nguema Owono, Vice
Primer Ministro y Ministro de Salud,
Presidencia del Gobierno,
Malabo,
Equatorial Guinea.
Fax: +240 333 09 9544
**Salutation: Excelencia/Your
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Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:

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www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AFR24/004/2012/en

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Wenceslao Mansogo Alo is a prominent member of the political party Convergence for Social Democracy (Convergencia para la Democracia Social, CPDS). It is the only independent opposition political party left in the country. He is also in charge of the human rights unit within the party. He is a human rights activist who monitors and denounces human rights violations in the country. He is also a councillor in the Bata city council, in charge of health and sanitation. He is highly respected as a doctor, as a councillor and politician and for his human rights work.

The anaesthetist who worked with Wenceslao Mansogo Alo was charged with the same offences and has to report to the investigating judge twice a week. After examining the body of the deceased patient the Minister of Health concluded on 10 February that the heart attack that caused the death of the patient had been related to the anaesthetics she had received.

Name: Wenceslao Mansogo Alo

Gender m/f: Male

Further information on UA: 75/12 Index: AFR 24/005/2012 Issue Date: 22 March 2012