

URGENT ACTION

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER IMPRISONED

Wenceslao Mansogo Alo, a doctor, political activist and human rights defender was sentenced to three years' imprisonment on 7 May in Bata city, Equatorial Guinea, after being convicted of professional negligence. An initial accusation of mutilation of a body was dropped before the start of the trial.

The charge of professional negligence was based on the unfounded accusations made by the family of the deceased and the report of a physical examination of the body by a medical team led by the Minister of Health. This report concluded that the patient had died of a heart attack caused by the maladministration of the anaesthetics. **Wenceslao Mansogo Alo** was not responsible for administering the anaesthesia. The prosecution presented no other evidence in court to support the charge.

His trial took place on 4 and 5 April. After an unexplained delay of over one month, on 7 May, the Litoral Provincial Court found Wenceslao Mansogo Alo guilty and sentenced him to three years' imprisonment; to pay compensation to the family of about US \$10,000 and to pay the State of Equatorial Guinea some US \$3,000. He was also suspended from practising his profession while he is in prison. The court also ordered the closure of his clinic for the duration of his imprisonment. The anaesthetist who worked with Wenceslao Mansogo Alo was also charged with the same offences was also convicted. She received a six month prison sentence and was ordered to pay compensation to the family of about US \$1,500 and was suspended from practising for the duration of her sentence.

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.

Amnesty International believes that the arrest, detention and conviction of Wenceslao Mansogo Alo were politically motivated and linked to his human rights work and political activities. He is therefore a prisoner of conscience, and the organization will continue to call for his immediate and unconditional release.

No further action is required by the Urgent Action network. Amnesty International will continue to work for the release of Wenceslao Mansogo Alo using other means to ensure sustained action on his behalf.

On behalf of Wenceslao Mansogo Alo and his family we thank you all that took action on his behalf

This is the second update of UA 75/12. Further information: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AFR24/005/2012/en>

Name: Wenceslao Mansogo Alo

Gender m/f: Male

Further information on UA: 75/12 Index: AFR 24/007/2012 Issue Date: 10 May 2012

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