

7 June 2002

Further information on UA 84/02 (AFR 24/001/2002, 19 March 2002) and follow-up (AFR 24/002/2002, 28 March 2002) - Fear of torture /possible prisoners of conscience and new concern: death penalty

EQUATORIAL GUINEA Felipe Ondo Obiang (m)
Guillermo Nguma Elá (m)
Lt. Col. Lorenzo Ondó Elá (m)

New names: Domingo Nfá Nvé (m)
Benito Ntutum Eyene (m)
Donato Ondó Ondó (m)
Angel Ovono Akumbega (m)
Juan Mbá Esono (m)
Primo Micha Obiang (m)
Mariano Ekua Sima (m)
Pablo Nguema Mba (m)
Melchor Ndong Modu (m)
Ángel Ovono Akumbega (m)
Five others

The 18 people mentioned above are facing the death penalty, after a grossly unfair summary trial. The judge will pass sentence on them on Sunday 9 June. If they are sentenced to death they could be executed soon afterwards.

They went on trial before a civilian court in the capital, Malabo, on 23 May. ON 6 June they were found guilty of plotting to kill the Head of State, President Obiang; attempting to overthrow the government; and "rebellion". The prosecution called for the death penalty.

They did not have adequate defence. During the trial they withdrew their confessions, which they said had been extracted under torture. However, the court disregarded these claims, despite the fact that the men clearly appeared to have been tortured: they were bruised, some had broken arms or wrists, and several walked with difficulty.

These men were among a group of 144 serving and former military personnel and civilians, including family members of the leaders of the opposition *Fuerza Democrata Republicana* (FDR), Democratic Republican Force, tried in connection with an alleged plot to overthrow the government and kill the Head of State. Dozens of them, including the others mentioned in the original UA, are now facing prison terms of between 20 and 30 years.

Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all cases and without reservation, on the grounds that it is a violation of the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment as proclaimed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Spanish, English or your own language:

- expressing concern that the people mentioned are facing the death penalty;
- saying that Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all cases and without reservation, on the grounds that it is a violation of the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment

or punishment as proclaimed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and calling on the authorities not to pass the death penalty;
- calling for any death sentences passed on these men to be commuted;
- expressing concern that the trial was unfair and that most defendants stated in court that they had been tortured but the court ignored their complaints.

APPEALS TO:

President of the Republic

General Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo
Presidente de la República
Gabinete del Presidente de la República
Malabo

República de Guinea Ecuatorial

Telegrams: Presidente, Gabinete del Presidente, Malabo, Guinea Ecuatorial

Fax: + 240 9 3313/3334

Salutation: Your Excellency/Excelencia

Minister of Interior

Clemente Ngonga Nguema Andema
Ministro del Interior
Ministerio del Interior
Malabo

República de Guinea Ecuatorial

Telegrams: Ministro Interior, Malabo, Guinea Ecuatorial

Fax: + 240 9 2683/2688

Salutation: Dear Interior Minister/ Sr. Ministro

Minister of Justice

Rubén Mayé Nsue Mangué
Ministro de Justicia y Culto
Ministerio de Justicia y Culto
Malabo

República de Guinea Ecuatorial

Telegrams: Ministro Justicia, Malabo, Guinea Ecuatorial

Fax: + 240 9 2115

Salutation: Dear Justice Minister/Sr. Ministro

COPIES TO:

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Santiago Nsobeya Efuman
Ministro de Asuntos Exteriores
Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores
Malabo, Guinea Ecuatorial

and to diplomatic representatives of Equatorial Guinea accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.