

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Fear of torture / Prisoners of conscience 7 October 1994

EQUATORIAL GUINEA	Indalecio Abuy)	
	Indalecio Eko)	human rights activists
	Tomás Nzo)	

Human rights activists Indalecio Abuy, Indalecio Eko and Tomás Nzo were arrested on 6 October 1994. Amnesty International believes they are prisoners of conscience, arrested solely on account of their political and human rights activities. Given that the torture and ill-treatment of political detainees is routine in Equatorial Guinea, the organization fears that the three men may be subjected to such treatment while in custody.

Indalecio Abuy, Indalecio Eko and Tomás Nzo are members of the continental region committee of the *Convergencia para la Democracia Social* (CPDS), Convergence for Social Democracy, one of the main opposition parties in Equatorial Guinea. At the time of their arrest they were on their way to Niefang, a town in the continental region of Río Muni, to investigate reports of recent human rights violations, including the reported extrajudicial execution of Aguado Ndong Nguema (see UA 363/94, AFR 24/09/94, 3 October 1994).

The three were arrested at a barrier outside Niefang town by the *delegado de gobierno* (government representative) in Niefang, the chief of police and also by several soldiers and police officers, who are normally in charge of the barrier. The three are being held at Niefang police station. The day before their arrest, the *delegado de gobierno* sent a message to the CPDS representative in Niefang prohibiting Indalecio Abuy from visiting Niefang. It appears that the *delegado de gobierno* suspected that Indalecio Abuy and the others would be going to Niefang to assess the human rights situation there.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Tension has been mounting in Equatorial Guinea in recent weeks after the authorities began to compile a population census. On 7 June 1994 the government had agreed to compile an electoral census prior to the municipal elections which are expected to be held at the end of this year. At the same time, the government agreed to carry out a population census at a later date. Opposition parties have called for a boycott of the population census currently underway on the grounds that it broke the June agreement.

Since the compilation of the population census started, scores of people suspected of opposing the census, and members of political parties, have been arrested and ill-treated in several parts of Río Muni. Dozens have been arrested in Niefang alone.

Freedom of movement in Equatorial Guinea is limited, particularly for political activists who are often stopped by security officers at the many barriers along the roads and at the entrance to the main towns and asked to pay bribes. Those who refuse to pay have often been arrested.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes(*)/express and airmail letters either in Spanish or in your own language:

- expressing concern that Indalecio Abuy, Indalecio Eko and Tomás Nzo were arrested on 6 October 1994 solely for their peaceful political and human rights activities, and calling for their immediate and unconditional release, as

prisoners of conscience.

- expressing fears that, as no steps have been taken to end the practice of torture in Equatorial Guinea, they are at risk of being tortured or ill-treated, and requesting assurances that they are treated humanely and given access to family members, lawyers and medical personnel.

APPEALS TO

** please note: faxes to Equatorial Guinea are often slow, and may therefore be expensive to send (possibly comparable to the cost of a telex).*

1) President

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

Telegrams: Presidente Obiang Nguema, Malabo, Guinea Ecuatorial

Telexes: 5405 GBNOM 5405 EG

Faxes: + 240 9 3313

Salutation: Su Excelencia/Your Excellency

2) Minister of Interior

Julio Ndong Ela Mangué
 Ministro de Interior
 Ministerio de Interior
 Malabo, Guinea Ecuatorial

Telegrams: Ministro de Interior Ndong Ela, Malabo, Guinea Ecuatorial

Telexes: 5405 GBNOM 5405 EG

Salutation: Excelentísimo Señor/Dear Minister

3) Minister of Justice

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

Telegrams: Ministro de Justicia Ndong Mbengono, 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, 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 TO: diplomatic representatives of Equatorial Guinea accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 18 November 1994