

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AFR 30/02/91
Distr: UA/SC

21 January 1991

Further information on UA 13/91 (AFR 30/01 91, 15 January 1991) - Arrest and possible ill-treatment of prisoner of conscience

GUINEA-BISSAU: João Guilherme FURTADO

João Guilherme Furtado is reported to have been released on 18 January 1991, possibly as a result of appeals to the government. He had been arrested on 28 December 1990 in the customs department of the post office in Bissau city after collecting a parcel of documents published by an exile political group, the *Resistência da Guiné-Bissau - Movimento Bafata* (RGB/MB), Guinea-Bissau Resistance - Bafata Movement. After his release, he said that he had not been physically ill-treated.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telexes/express and airmail letters:

- welcoming João Guilherme Furtado's release;
- expressing concern that he was held incommunicado for 20 days for exercising his right to freedom of opinion and to receive information which did not advocate violence;
- calling for the introduction and implementation of safeguards to ensure that, in future, no one can be arrested for exercising their internationally recognized fundamental rights.

APPEALS TO:

Sua Excelência
Presidente João Bernardo Vieira
Gabinete do Presidente da República
Praça dos Heróis Nacionais
Bissau
República da Guiné-Bissau

Telexes: 251 PCR BI

Sua Excelência
Mario Cabral
Ministro da Justiça
Ministério da Justiça
Bissau
República da Guiné-Bissau

Sua Excelência
Júlio Semedo
Ministro de Negócios Estrangeiros
Ministério de Negócios Estrangeiros
Bissau
República da Guiné-Bissau

Telexes: 249 MNESTRA BI

Sua Excelência
Mário Lopes
Procurador Geral da República
Procuradoria Geral da República
Bissau
República da Guiné-Bissau

and to diplomatic representatives of Guinea-Bissau in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. After this last round of appeals, no further action will be required. Thank you to all who sent appeals on his behalf.