

24 September 1996

Further information on UA 192/96 (AFR 30/03/96, 1 August 1996) and follow-ups (AFR 30/04/96, 15 August; AFR 30/05/96, 16 August; AFR 30/06/96, 22 August 1996; and AFR 30/08/96, 28 August) - Fear of refoulement / ill-treatment / fear for safety / Health concern and new concerns: Possible extrajudicial execution / ill-treatment / arbitrary arrest

GUINEA-BISSAU / SPAIN Albert Mukesha Batwaro, Rwandese  
and other African nationals, particularly:  
Ahire Uwaifo Naruna (25), Nigerian  
David Adekoro Damolekun (24), Nigerian  
Cesaltina (f) (other names not known)

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On 23 September 1996 Ahire Uwaifo Naruna, one of the 46 African nationals who have been held in Guinea-Bissau for over three months after being expelled from Spain, was shot dead by police in the aftermath of a violent demonstration. David Adekoro Damolekun was injured and taken to hospital.

On the morning of 23 September, the 46 detainees, having some freedom to leave the *Segunda Esquadra* prison where were being held, went into the streets near the prison to protest at the way they were expelled from Spain and at their treatment in Guinea-Bissau. Guineans also joined the demonstration. The protesters stopped cars, ordering the drivers to get out. There were also reports that they damaged two cars. The Rapid Intervention Police were summoned and started shooting into the air, scattering the protesters. They also shot into the crowd. Ahire Naruna was sitting on the low wall in front of the prison when he received a bullet in the back of his head. David Damolekun was shot in the arm.

There had been an earlier demonstration in August which ended when the detainees were told that the Guinea-Bissau authorities were trying to solve their problems. As a month passed with no word from the authorities, and as the detainees' despair increased, they decided to draw attention to their plight on the eve of Guinea-Bissau's independence day (Guinea-Bissau declared its independence from Portugal on 24 September 1973).

After the police had intervened at the demonstration on 23 September, at least 22 of the demonstrators were sent or taken back to the prison and locked up.

Others who had fled from the police are believed to be still at large. Two of those now in the *Segunda Esquadra* were reported to have been badly beaten, possibly at the time of their arrest.

Also on 23 September, an elderly woman was detained on suspicion that she had assisted the protesters. Cesaltina (other names not known), who lives near the *Segunda Esquadra*, had befriended the detainees, doing their washing and making herbal remedies for those who were ill. Police entered her house and arrested her without a warrant. She is being held in the *Segunda Esquadra*.

Amnesty International is deeply concerned about the killing of Ahire Naruna and the wounding of David Damolekun as it appears that the police could have restored order without resort to lethal force. It is also concerned about the arbitrary arrest of Cesaltina who appears to have been detained solely because of her concern for the detainees' welfare and also by reports that two of the detainees were severely beaten.

Amnesty International remains concerned that the detainees did not have adequate opportunity to present their claims for asylum in Spain before being forcibly expelled and that they have not been given the opportunity to claim asylum in Guinea-Bissau. It fears that some may be at risk of serious human rights violations if they are returned to their own countries (Appeals to the Spanish and Guinea-Bissau authorities on the asylum and refoulement issues may still be sent, as outlined in the update of 15 August 1996).

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters to the Guinea-Bissau authorities:**

- expressing deep concern at the death of Ahire Uwaifo Naruna in what may have been an extrajudicial execution, and at the wounding of David Adekoro Damolekun;
- expressing concern at reports that two protestors were beaten, either at the time of their arrest or after they returned to the *Segunda Esquadra*;
- calling on the authorities to initiate thorough and impartial investigations into these events with a view to bringing those responsible to justice and taking other appropriate action to ensure that members of the security forces conform to national and international standards governing the behaviour of law enforcement officials;
- expressing concern that Cesaltina appears to have been arrested solely because of her concern for the detainees' welfare and calling for her immediate and unconditional release unless she is to be promptly charged with a recognizable criminal offence and fairly tried.

**APPEALS TO:**

President of the Republic

Sua Excelência João Bernardo Vieira  
 Presidente da República  
 Palácio da República  
 Praça dos Heróis Nacionais  
 Bissau, República da Guiné-Bissau

**Faxes: + 245 20 20 07**

**Telexes: 251 pcr bi**

**Telegrams: Presidente Vieira, Bissau, Guiné-Bissau**

**Salutation: Excelência**

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Sua Excelência Fernando Delfim da Silva  
 Ministro dos Negócios Estrangeiros  
 Ministério dos Negócios Estrangeiros  
 Avenida Domingos Ramos  
 Bissau, República da Guiné-Bissau

**Faxes: + 245 20 15 42**

**Telegrams: Ministro Fernando Delfim da Silva, Bissau, Guiné-Bissau**

**Salutation: Excelência**

**COPIES TO:** diplomatic representatives of Guinea-Bissau accredited to your country.

Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 5 October 1996.