

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on EXTRA 08/95 (AFR 32/01/95, 20 January 1995) - Prisoners of conscience and new concern: Health concern

KENYA Njenga Mungai, member of parliament (MP) for Molo
Dr Lawali Oyondi, MP for Nakuru Town, veterinary surgeon
Francis John Wanyange, MP for Nakuru East
John Njenga Mungai, driver and brother of Njenga Mungai
Mwangi Gikonyo, councillor from Longonot
Joel Odoyo Ondiala (note: new spelling of Aomedoy Ondiala)

Amnesty International is concerned about the health of the prisoners of conscience named above, particularly that of Dr Lawali Oyondi, Njenga Mungai and Joel Odoyo Ondiala, who are currently in Nakuru provincial hospital with chronic diarrhoea.

Dr Lawali Oyondi was originally admitted to hospital on 27 January on the recommendation of his doctor and a government doctor who had examined him. However a police officer cancelled their recommendation and he was returned to prison that evening. His own doctor was prevented from seeing him in prison on 28 January, but he was subsequently readmitted to hospital on 29 January as his condition had deteriorated even further. His doctor was allowed to see him in hospital. He is reportedly also suffering from low blood pressure.

Njenga Mungai and Joel Odoyo Ondiala were admitted to hospital on 30 January. The other three men named above have been receiving medical treatment in prison from their doctor, as they are also unwell. However on at least one occasion their doctor has been refused permission to attend them by prison warders and he has had to obtain a court order to enable him to visit them.

They are being held in Nakuru remand prison, where there has been an outbreak of diarrhoea and many prisoners are reportedly sick. Conditions are harsh at the prison. There is severe overcrowding, a lack of fresh water, an inadequate diet, which is poorly cooked, and the prison has no medical officer attached to it.

All six men, who were arrested on 15 January 1995 and charged with promoting "warlike activities" and "uttering words with seditious intention", applied to the High Court in Nairobi for bail, following the denial of bail by the magistrate's court in Nakuru on 20 January. However their application was adjourned today until 6 February, to enable the Attorney General to examine the case. The file has been with the Attorney General's office all week. Amnesty International believes the six are prisoners of conscience, detained for their non-violent opposition to the government. The organization is concerned that the adjournment of their bail application is a way of further delaying their release.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters

- expressing concern at the continuing detention of the individuals listed above and urging that they be immediately and unconditionally released on the grounds that they are prisoners of conscience, imprisoned solely for the non-violent expression of their political beliefs;
- expressing concern at the health of Njenga Mungai, Dr Lawali Oyondi, Joel

Oduyo Ondiala and urging that they and the other three prisoners receive appropriate medical treatment;

- expressing concern at the appalling prison conditions in Nakuru remand prison and urging that prisoners have access to adequate food, clean water and any necessary medical treatment.

APPEALS TO

President Daniel arap Moi
Office of the President
PO Box 30510
Nairobi
Kenya

Telegrams: President Moi, Kenya

Telexes: 22003 FOREIGN ROB or 22796 FOREIGN RB

Faxes: +254 2 337340

Salutation: Your Excellency

Mr Amos Wako
Attorney General
Office of the Attorney General

PO Box 40112

Nairobi
Kenya

Telegrams: Attorney General Wako, Nairobi, Kenya

Salutation: Dear Attorney General

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Dr Willy Mutunga
Chairman
Law Society of Kenya
PO Box 72219
Nairobi
Kenya

and to diplomatic representatives of Kenya accredited to your country

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 3 March 1995.