

It is not known where these prisoners are held or in what conditions. They are probably being held incommunicado in police stations or by the security police, the Department of State Security and Intelligence (DSSI, formerly called the police Special Branch), at its Nairobi headquarters in Nyayo House, where torture of political prisoners has been frequently reported. Arrested persons are required to be brought to court and charged within 24 hours, or 14 days for a capital offence, but these legal requirements are not always respected by the police.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

FORD was set up in August 1991 to work non-violently for democracy and human rights in Kenya and against corruption. It is the latest group formed in Kenya to campaign for multi-party democracy and the end of the one-party system where the Kenya African National Union (KANU) is the only permitted party. Its members have frequently been harassed or interrogated by the police.

Amnesty International regards these prisoners as prisoners of conscience arrested for their opinions and non-violent political activities. It is concerned that they could be subjected to torture or ill-treatment, that they could be administratively detained for an indefinite period without charge or trial, or face unfair trials for political offences. There is particular concern for the health of Oginga Odinga, in view of his advanced age and poor health.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:

- expressing concern at the arrests of Oginga Odinga and other pro-democracy activists;
- urging for assurances that they are not being subjected to torture or ill-treatment and that they be given immediate access to their legal representatives, families and medical doctors;
- appealing for their immediate and unconditional release as prisoners of conscience detained solely for the non-violent exercise of their right to freedom of association and expression.

APPEALS TO

1) President Daniel arap Moi
President of the Republic of Kenya
Office of the President
P O Box 30510
Nairobi, Kenya
Telegrams: President arap Moi, Kenya

Your Excellency

2) Mr Amos Wako
Attorney General
Office of the Attorney General
PO Box 40112, Nairobi, Kenya

Dear Attorney General

Telegrams: Attorney General Wako, Nairobi, Kenya
Telexes: 22003 FOREIGNRB or 22696 FOREIGNRB (via Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
Faxes: + 254 2 33 7340 (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

3) Mr James Kanyotu Director of
Dept of Security and Intelligence
Kenya Police HQ
PO Box 30083
Nairobi, Kenya

Dear Sir

Telegrams: Director Security and Intelligence, Police HQ, Nairobi, Kenya

4) Mr Philip Kilonzo
Commissioner of Police
Kenya Police HQ
PO Box 30083
Nairobi, Kenya

Dear Commissioner

Telegrams: Police Commissioner Kilonzo, Police HQ, Nairobi, Kenya

COPIES TO: any of the following

Mr Paul Muite
Chairman, Law Society of Kenya
P O Box 72219
Nairobi, Kenya

The Kenya Times
PO Box 30958
Nairobi, Kenya

The Weekly Review
PO Box 42271
Nairobi, Kenya

The Standard
PO Box 30080
Nairobi, Kenya

The Daily Nation
PO Box 49010
Nairobi, Kenya

Society
PO Box 12868
Nairobi, Kenya

and to diplomatic representatives of Kenya in your country

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 27 December 1991.