

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AFR 32/65/97

2 December 1997

Further information on Extra 191/96 (AFR 32/16/96, 9 December 1996) and follow-ups (AFR 32/17/96, 16 December 1996, AFR 32/05/97, 7 January 1997 and AFR 32/06/97, 14 January 1997) - Health Concern / Prisoners of Conscience

KENYAKoigi wa WAMWERE, aged 48, human rights activist, former political prisoner, former member of parliament, journalist
Charles Kuria WAMWERE, former political prisoner
G.G. Njuguna NGENGI, councillor for Molo, farmer

On 1 December 1997 the outstanding conviction against Koigi wa Wamwere, Charles Kuria Wamwere and G.G. Njuguna Ngengi was quashed by the chief justice.

The three men were sentenced to four years in jail and ordered to receive six strokes of the cane in October 1995 after they were convicted of robbery following an alleged raid on a police station near Nakuru in November 1993.

Koigi wa Wamwere was released on bail for medical reasons pending appeal in December 1996. Charles Kuria Wamwere and G.G. Njuguna Ngengi were released for the same reason in January 1997.

Last week other outstanding charges against Koigi wa Wamwere were also dropped.

This now enables Koigi wa Wamwere, the presidential candidate of the Kenya National Democratic Alliance party, to stand as a candidate at the forthcoming presidential elections on 29 December 1997. This was previously not possible whilst he was legally considered a convicted felon.

No further action by the UA Network is requested. Many thanks to all who sent appeals on this case. It is clear that the many appeals sent, as part of international campaigning efforts, helped secure the release of these three men and final quashing of their sentences.