

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 11/93 (AFR 36/06/93, 15 January 1993) - Fear of ill-treatment/legal concern

MALAWI: Chakakala Chaziya, opposition leader
Khoswe, businessman
Johnson, opposition activist
and a driver

Chakakala Chaziya has been released from police custody. He was brought to court on 22 January 1993 and was granted bail. It is not known if he has been charged, and if so, with what offence. Chakakala Chaziya, vice-chairman of the opposition United Democratic Front (UDF) party, was arrested on 5 January 1993 and had been accused of being involved with an opposition news magazine which is published abroad.

It is not clear whether the three other men named above, who were arrested a few days earlier than Chakakala Chaziya allegedly in connection with the same magazine, remain in police custody or have been released on bail.

Amnesty International has no information yet about how the four men were treated in prison. However, they were detained without charge for longer than 48 hours after arrest and this was apparently unlawful, although such detention is common in Malawi and condoned by justice officials.

No further action is required on these cases by the Urgent Action network at this time. Thank you to all those who sent appeals on their behalf.