

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 53/93 (AFR 36/18/93, 2 March 1993) - Fear of ill-treatment/Legal concern

MALAWI:Edmond Jika) opposition
Gabriel Nkunika) activists

Edmond Jika and Gabriel Nkunika, who were arrested on 24 February 1993 on their return to Malawi from exile in Zambia, were held in custody for some weeks. Edmond Jika was released on bail in mid-April but it is not yet clear what political offence he has been charged with or whether there will be any trial. Gabriel Nkunika was deported back to Zambia in mid-March on the grounds that he had a Zambian travel document, although he is a Malawian national.

Both were clearly arrested because they wanted to campaign for multi-party democracy in the 14 June referendum, where the one-party government has allowed only two "pressure-groups" to campaign, apart from the ruling Malawi Congress Party. Political parties, including those formed by Malawian exiles such as Edmond Jika and Gabriel Nkunika, are still banned.

No further action is requested from the Urgent Action Network although Amnesty International will continue to monitor the case of Edmond Jika.