

URGENT ACTION

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER RECEIVES DEATH THREAT

Patrick Naagbantou, Coordinator of the Centre for Environment, Human Rights and Development (CEHRD) in Port Harcourt, in Rivers State, southern Nigeria, has received a number of death threats in the last two weeks. Amnesty International believes his life to be in danger.

On 30 December 2010, two people followed **Patrick Naagbantou** into the offices of the CEHRD and threatened him with death in front of another staff member. A third staff member reported that she had also been threatened by the same individuals. The following day, at around 11pm, a third individual telephoned Patrick Naagbantou and demanded a sum of money be delivered to them before 1 January 2011.

On 1 January 2011, Patrick Naagbantou received a call ordering him to a local shrine in Rivers State. The caller warned that he would be killed if he did not attend. Patrick Naagbantou attempted to contact the Commissioner of Police for Rivers State, but was unsuccessful. Later that day, and again on 2 January, Patrick Naagbantou received two more death threats by phone.

Amnesty International believes the death threats to be linked to Patrick Naagbantou's work as a human rights defender.

CEHRD works to respond to environmental, human rights, health and underdevelopment problems in the Niger delta region.

PLEASE WRITE IMMEDIATELY in English or your own language:

- Expressing concern for the safety of Patrick Naagbantou.
- Urging the authorities to take immediate and effective action to protect Patrick Naagbantou, and any other CEHRD staff members who may be at risk, in consultation with the persons concerned.
- Calling the authorities to order an immediate, thorough and independent investigation into the threats made with the results made public and those responsible brought to justice.
- Reminding the authorities that human rights defenders have the right to carry out their activities without any restrictions or fear of reprisals, as set out in the UN Declaration on the Rights and Responsibilities of Individuals, Groups and Institutions to Promote and Promote Universally Recognised Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 17 FEBRUARY 2011 TO:

Commissioner of Police for Rivers State
Suleiman Abba(Jan 2007)
Commissioner of Police
Rivers State Command Headquarters
Moscow Road
Port Harcourt
Nigeria

Salutation: Dear Commissioner of Police

And copies to:

Inspector General of Police
Hafiz Ringim
Force Headquarters
Loius Edet House
Shehu Shagari Way
Area 11 Garki, Abuja
Nigeria

Salutation: Dear Inspector General

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY
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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Human rights defenders and journalists in Nigeria regularly face intimidation, harassment and death.

On 29 December 2010, Chidi Nwosu was shot dead by unknown gunmen in his house in Abia State. He was the President of Human Rights of Justice and Peace Foundation (HRJPF) and was known for his work against corruption and human rights violations.

Several journalists have been killed in suspicious circumstances in recent years. Bayo Olu, the Assistant News Editor of The Guardian newspaper, based in Lagos, was shot dead in 2009. In October 2008, Eiphraim Audu, a radio journalist with the Nasarawa State Broadcasting Service, was shot by six unknown gunmen near his home in Lafia, central Nigeria. In August 2008, Paul Abayomi Ogundeji, a member of the editorial board of the newspaper Thisday was killed by unknown gunmen in Lagos. He was the second member of the Thisday editorial board to be murdered in two years. Godwin Agbroko, the chairman of Thisday's editorial board, was killed in similar circumstances in December 2006. A chief witness in the inquest into the death of Ogundeji was also killed by unknown gunmen in her house in Ogun state in June 2009.

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