

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AFR 44/05/95
Distr: UA/SC

24 April 1995

Further information on UA 282/94 (AFR 44/09/94, 21 July 1994) and follow-up (AFR 44/04/95, 21 April 1995) - Health concern for prisoner of conscience

NIGERIA Bashorun (Chief) Moshood K.O. Abiola, 58, newspaper publisher and businessman

new names: Dr Ore Falomo, Moshood Abiola's doctor
Dr Charles Ugboma, police doctor

Dr Ore Falomo, Moshood Abiola's personal physician, was reportedly detained by the security police on 20 April 1995. Amnesty International is concerned that he is a prisoner of conscience, detained for making public his fears for Moshood Abiola's health in detention. He has been held incommunicado, his family unable to contact him.

It appears that another doctor who has treated Moshood Abiola may also be in detention: Dr Charles Ugboma, a police doctor, is reported to have been arrested earlier and also held in incommunicado detention.

On 18 April the authorities reportedly asked Dr Falomo to visit Moshood Abiola, in detention in Abuja, but, on his arrival on 20 April, arrested him. No reason has been given for his arrest but it is believed to be because he has recently publicized Moshood Abiola's deteriorating health and harsh conditions of imprisonment.

He is probably detained under the terms of the State Security (Detention of Persons) Decree, No. 2 of 1984, which allow the Chief of General Staff and Inspector General of Police to order the detention of any person they consider a threat to the security of the state for indefinitely renewable periods of three months. There is no provision for any independent or judicial review of such detentions, and in October 1994 the military government amended the decree specifically to prohibit the courts from ordering detainees to be produced before them, whether by writ of *habeas corpus* or by orders made under the human rights provisions of the constitution.

Dr Falomo is a former Chairman of the Board at the Lagos University Teaching Hospital and currently an executive member of the Lagos State branch of the Nigerian Medical Association (NMA). The NMA has been calling for Moshood Abiola's release on medical grounds for several months; NMA representatives and a government-appointed medical team who examined him in September and October 1994 reported that he needed urgent medical investigations and treatment.

PLEASE CONTINUE ACTION AS RECOMMENDED IN PREVIOUS FOLLOW-UP OF 21 APRIL AND IN ADDITION, Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:

- expressing concern at the reported arrest of Dr Ore Falomo and appealing for his immediate and unconditional release on the grounds that he is a prisoner of conscience, imprisoned for the non-violent expression of his views;
- seeking information about the reported incommunicado detention without charge or trial of another doctor who has treated Moshood Abiola, Dr Charles Ugboma, a police doctor.

APPEALS TO

General Sani Abacha
 Chairman, Provisional Ruling Council
 State House
 Abuja, Federal Capital Territory, Nigeria
Telegrams: General Abacha, Abuja, Nigeria
Faxes: +234 95 232138
Salutation: Dear General

Lieutenant-General D. Oladipo Diya
 Vice-Chairman, Provisional Ruling Council and Chief of General Staff
 State House
 Abuja, Federal Capital Territory, Nigeria
Telegrams: Lieutenant-General Diya, Abuja, Nigeria
Salutation: Dear Lieutenant-General

Alhaji Aminu Saleh
 Secretary to the Government of the Federation of Nigeria
 State House
 Abuja, Federal Capital Territory, Nigeria
Telegrams: Alhaji Saleh, Abuja, Nigeria
Salutation: Dear Secretary

Alhaji Ibrahim Coomasie
 Inspector General of Police
 Nigeria Police Force Headquarters
 Garki, Abuja, Federal Capital Territory, Nigeria
Telegrams: Alhaji Coomasie, Abuja, Nigeria
Salutation: Dear Inspector General

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Chief Tom Ikimi
 Minister of Foreign Affairs
 Ministry of Foreign Affairs
 PMB 130, Abuja, Federal Capital Territory, Nigeria

Nigerian Medical Association (Lagos State)
 PO Box 54796, Ikoyi, Lagos, Nigeria

The Editor, *The News*, PMB 21531, Ikeja, Lagos, Nigeria
 The Editor, *Tell*, PMB 21749, Ikeja, Lagos, Nigeria
 The Editor, *Daily Times*, PMB 21340, Ikeja, Lagos, Nigeria
 The Editor, *Vanguard*, PMB 1007, Apapa, Lagos, Nigeria
 The Editor, *Nigerian Observer*, PMB 1334, Benin City, Edo State, Nigeria
 The Editor, *Nigerian Tribune*, POB 78, Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria

and to diplomatic representatives of Nigeria accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 6 June 1995.