

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 258/93 (AFR 44/10/93, 6 August 1993) - Legal Concern

**NIGERIA:Wale Shittu, 24 protocol officer, Civil Liberties Organization (CLO)
Femi Adenuga, 25, documentation officer, CLO
Emmanuel Nweke, 26, staff member, CLO**

Wale Shittu, Femi Adenuga and Emmanuel Nweke were released on bail in early August 1993.

Wale Shittu, Femi Adenuga and Emmanuel Nweke all work for the Civil Liberties Organization (CLO), a non-governmental human rights organization. They were arrested by police on 2 July apparently for being in possession of leaflets issued by the CLO and the Campaign for Democracy calling for an end to military rule in Nigeria. They were held without charge or trial at the State Investigation and Intelligence Bureau (SIIB), Alagbon Close, in Lagos but were reportedly later charged with sedition.

Amnesty International believes that Wale Shittu, Femi Adenuga and Emmanuel Nweke were arrested because of their peaceful political activities and is now calling for all charges against them to be dropped.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

On 26 August 1993 General Ibrahim Babangida resigned as President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces and installed a non-elected interim government. The new interim government is headed by Chief Ernest Shonekan, a civilian who was also the Chairman of the Transitional Council set up in January 1993 to run the day-to-day affairs of the country until a return to civilian rule scheduled for August 1993. Several former officials retain their position in the new 32-member Interim Federal Executive Council, including General Sani Abacha who remains in charge of the Defence Ministry. Chief Shonekan has undertaken to organize fresh presidential elections within the next seven months and to hand over power to an elected civilian government by March 1994. On 29 August 1993 he announced that he was ordering the release of Dr Beko Ransome-Kuti, Femi Falana and Chief Gani Fawehinmi, the three prominent members of the Campaign for Democracy who were being held indefinitely without charge or trial under the State Security (Detention of Persons) Decree No.2 of 1984. (See UA 225/93 (AFR 44/06/93, 9 July 1993, AFR 44/08/93, 26 July 1993 and AFR 44/09/93, 5 August). However, protest against the annulment of the results of the June 1993 presidential election and failure to return to a civilian government continues. The Nigeria Labour Congress, a trade union organization refused to accept the new interim government and called for an indefinite general strike.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/express and airmail letters in English or in your own language:

- welcoming the release on bail of Wale Shittu, Femi Adenuga and Emmanuel Nweke;
- expressing concern, however, that they were arrested and charged because of their peaceful political activities;
- calling for all charges against them to be dropped as, if convicted, they would be prisoners of conscience.

APPEALS TO:

1) Chief Ernest Shonekan
Head of State
Interim Federal Executive Council
State House
Abuja

Federal Capital Territory, Nigeria

Telegrams: Ernest Shonekan, Abuja, Nigeria

Telexes: [0905] 91529 or 91530 EXTNAL NG (via Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Salutation: Dear Mr Shonekan

2) Mr Clement Akpamgbo
Attorney General of the Federation,
Secretary for Justice
Ministry of Justice
Abuja

Federal Capital Territory
Nigeria

Telegrams: Attorney General Akpamgbo, Abuja, Nigeria

Telexes: [0905] 91529 or 91530 EXTNAL NG (via Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Salutation: Dear Attorney General

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Chief Matthew Mbu
Secretary for Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Maputo Street
Abuja
Federal Capital Territory
Nigeria

Civil Liberties Organization (CLO)
24 Mbonu Ojike Street
Surulere, Lagos
Nigeria

Daily Times
PMB 21340
Ikeja, Lagos
Nigeria

The Guardian
PMB 1217
Oshodi, Lagos
Nigeria

Newswatch
PMB 21499
Ikeja,
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 15 October 1993.