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NIGERIA: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL CALLS ON THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION

NEW YORK -- Amnesty international condemned the recent execution of Ken Saro-Wiwa and other Ogoni activists in Nigeria. These executions took place in blatant defiance of appeals by the international community, including the UN Secretary-General, to commute the death sentences.

Over many years Amnesty International has documented systemic violations of human rights in Nigeria, most recently in its report *Nigeria: A travesty of justice - Secret treason trials and other concerns*, published in October 1995.

"Nigeria is violating even the most basic human rights, including arbitrary and extrajudicial execution, arbitrary detention, torture and freedom of expression," Amnesty International said.

"The trials and subsequent executions of Ken Saro-Wiwa and the Ogoni activists contravened international standards, in particular Articles 14 and 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), to which Nigeria is a party, and the UN Economic and Social Council Safeguards concerning Protection of the Rights of Those Facing the Death Penalty."

Amnesty International is calling upon Member States of the UN to address the continuing widespread violations of human rights in Nigeria by adopting a resolution:

- * condemning violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Nigeria;
- * requesting the UN Secretary-General to submit a report on the human rights situation in Nigeria to the 52nd session of the UN Commission on Human Rights in 1996, and to the 51st session of the General Assembly, which takes into account information received from states, relevant UN agencies and departments, intergovernmental and regional organizations and non-governmental organizations;
- * requesting the Special Rapporteurs on summary, arbitrary and extrajudicial executions, torture, and on the independence of the judiciary, and the Working Group on arbitrary Detention, to examine the human rights in Nigeria and to report to the 52nd session of the UN Commission on Human Rights in 1996.

The organization also calls on the treaty monitoring body of the ICCPR, the UN Human Rights Committee, to request from the Nigerian Government a special report pursuant to Article 40 (1) (b) of the ICCPR.

ENDS/