

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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PLEASE ORGANIZE UP TO 20 APPEALS PER SECTION

UA 202/91

Legal Concern

12 June 1991

SEYCHELLES: Frank KILINDO, dockworker

Frank Kilindo, a 28-year-old dockworker, was arrested on 17 May 1991 in Victoria, the Seychelles capital on Mahé island. It is reported that he was arrested on account of being found in possession of leaflets of a newly formed opposition party, Parti Seselwa (Seychellois Party). Amnesty International is concerned he may be a prisoner of conscience, detained for the non-violent expression of his political views.

Frank Kilindo has been detained on an administrative detention order under the Public Security (Detention) Regulations 1981. This provides for detention without charge or trial for an indefinite period of anyone thought by the authorities to be endangering public safety. He is being held at the Grand Police Military Camp, which is a maximum security prison in Mahé. He is being held incommunicado and has been denied access to his lawyer.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Opposition to the ruling party and calls for the establishment of multi-party democracy have been intensifying in the Seychelles where the ruling party of President France-Albert René, the Seychelles People's Progressive Front (SPPF), has been the sole political party since 1978. Amnesty International has received other reports over the past few months of people being briefly held and questioned for distributing opposition leaflets but it appears that Frank Kilindo is the first person to be formally detained.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/faxes and airmail letters:

- expressing concern at the incommunicado detention of Frank Kilindo, whom Amnesty International believes may be a prisoner of conscience detained for the non-violent expression of his political beliefs;
- requesting the precise reasons for his arrest and information about any charges being prepared against him;
- appealing for him to be humanely treated while in detention, and given immediate and regular access to his legal representative and family;
- urging that he be released without delay if he is not to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence and brought promptly to trial in accordance with international standards of fair trial.

APPEALS TO: (UP TO 20 PER SECTION)

His Excellency Mr France-Albert René
President of the Republic of the Seychelles
State House
PO Box 655
Victoria
Seychelles

Telegrams: President Rene, Victoria, Seychelles
Telexes: 2217 STATE SZ
Faxes: + 248 24200

Mr James Michel
Minister of Finance and Armed Forces Chief of Staff
Ministry of Finance
State House
PO Box 313
Victoria
Seychelles

Telegrams: Minister of Finance Michel
Victoria, Seychelles
Telexes: 2363 STATE SZ
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COPIES TO:

Mr Padiwalla
Attorney-General
Attorney-General's Chambers
PO Box 58
National House
24041 Seychelles

Ms Danielle de St Jorre
Minister of Planning and External Affairs
PO Box 656
Victoria
Seychelles

and to diplomatic representatives of the Seychelles in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 24 July 1991.