

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

**AI Index: AFR 51/08/93
Distr: UA/SC**

2 August 1993

Further information on UA 85/93 (AFR 51/03/93, 25 March 1993) - Fear of torture/Extrajudicial execution

SIERRA LEONE: - Ernest Allen, Acting Permanent Secretary at the Department of Defence
- Fatmata Binta Jalloh (female), businesswoman
- Foday Kallon, employee at the Department of Foreign Affairs
- Rosaline Kamara (female), an official at the Sierra Leone Embassy in Russia
- Ernest Bai Koroma, Managing Director of Reliance Insurance and Transport Corporation of Sierra Leone
- Bockarie Samura
- Abubakar Jalloh, manager of the Diamond Mining Corporation

All seven people named above have now been released from detention. They were arrested in March 1993 on suspicion of involvement in a plot to overthrow the government.

Fatmata Binta Jalloh, Foday Kallon, Rosaline Kamara, Ernest Bai Koroma, Bockarie Samura and Abubakar Jalloh were released from the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) headquarters in the capital Freetown on 1 April. Ernest Allen, however, was transferred to the Central Prison, Pademba Road, in Freetown where he remained without charge or trial until 9 July. The government claimed that he had been involved in a conspiracy to purchase arms and missiles from Ukraine.

Following his release, the government stated that he had been released because of lack of evidence against him. He has, however, been dismissed from his post at the Department of Defence.

Ernest Allen was among 86 political detainees released from Pademba Road Prison on 9 July. In June Amnesty International had appealed to the Sierra Leone government to urgently review the cases of some 270 political detainees, including Ernest Allen, who were being held without charge or trial at Pademba Road Prison, to release prisoners of conscience and others who had not been accused of a criminal offence and to promptly and fairly try those who were to be charged.

The releases of the 86 detainees on 9 July followed a review of their cases by both police and military authorities. Amnesty International is continuing to call for a review of the remaining cases. (For further information, please see UA 205/93, AFR 51/05/93, 22 June 1993 and follow-up AFR 51/07/93, 2 August 1993.)

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: No further action by Urgent Action participants is requested. Thank you to all those who sent appeals on this case.