

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 93/95 Arbitrary Arrest/Torture/Medical Concern

EQUATORIAL GUINEA: Norberto "Tito" Mba Nze, aged 38, car mechanic
Mariano Nsogo
Baltasar Nsogo Ntutumu
Pascual Nsomo Mba
Elías Nso Ondo
Avelino Mocache
(political activists and census observers)

On 10 April 1995 Norberto "Tito" Mba Nze, Mariano Nsogo, Baltasar Nsogo Ntutumu and Pascual Nsomo Mba were arrested in Akonibe, in the south east of the mainland region of Río Muni, and subjected to beatings on the sole of the feet and other parts of the body.

Members of the *Convergencia para la Democracia Social* (CPDS), Convergence for Social Democracy, were able to see Norberto "Tito" Mba Nze on the morning of 13 April, at the police station in Akonibe where the four men are detained, but they were unable to see the other detainees. Norberto Mba Nze told his visitors, in the presence of police authorities, that he had been arrested for his political activities and for trying to perform his duty as an electoral census observer. He also told them that he, and the other three, had been severely beaten on the soles of the feet and other parts of the body. According to his visitors, Norberto Mba Nze had difficulty in walking; his left arm was injured and he had it elevated in a sort of sling. None of the detainees have reportedly received medical treatment.

Norberto "Tito" Mba Nze has been briefly detained on previous occasions for his peaceful political activities. His most recent arrest was in late February 1994.

Elías Nso Ondo and Avelino Mocache, both members of the *Partido del Progreso* (PP), Progress Party, and electoral census observers were arrested in Evinayong, Centro-Sur province of Río Muni on 9 April 1995, also for attempting to supervise the compilation of the census. They are believed to be held in the police station in Bata, the capital of Río Muni.

Norberto "Tito" Mba Nze is the local representative of the CPDS. Mariano Nsogo and Baltasar Nsogo Ntutumu are also members of the CPDS while Pascual Nsomo Mba is a member of the PP. The four are district observers in the compilation of the electoral census.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Since the beginning of 1995 scores of peaceful political activists and members of opposition parties delegated to monitor the compilation of the electoral census have been arbitrarily arrested. Many have been tortured or ill-treated and about a dozen have been briefly detained.

Tension escalated after the government announced that municipal elections would take place during the first half of 1995 and started compiling the electoral census, which was to be supervised by opposition parties. In February at least

15 military officers and civilians were arrested and accused of plotting to overthrow the government. They are expected to be tried by a military court shortly.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters either in Spanish or in your own language:

- expressing concern about the unlawful imprisonment of Norbeto "Tito" Mba Nze, Mariano Nsogo, Baltasar Nsogo Ntutumu and Pascual Nsomo Mba and at reports that they were severely beaten;
- expressing concern that Norbeto "Tito" Mba Nze, Mariano Nsogo, Baltasar Nsogo Ntutumu and Pascual Nsomo Mba and Elías Nsó Ondo and Avelino Mocache appear to have been arrested solely on account of their peaceful political activities;
- stating that unless they are charged with a recognizably criminal offence they be released immediately and unconditionally;
- urging that they be allowed access to family, lawyers and medical treatment immediately;
- asking for reports of torture to be thoroughly investigated, the results made public, and that those responsible be brought to justice.

APPEALS TO

President

General de Brigada Teodoro Obiang Nguema
 Presidente de la República
 Gabinete del Presidente
 Malabo
 Guinea Ecuatorial

Telegrams: Presidente Obiang Nguema, Malabo, Guinea Ecuatorial
Telexes: 5405 GBNOM 5405 EG
Faxes: + 240 9 3313
Salutation Su Excelencia/Your Excellency

Minister of Interior

Julio Ndong Ela Mangué
 Ministro de Interior
 Ministerio de Interior
 Malabo
 Guinea Ecuatorial

Telegrams: Ministro de Interior Ndong Ela Mangué, Guinea Ecuatorial
Telexes: 5405 GBNOM 5405 EG
Salutation: Excelntísimo Señor/Dear Minister

Minister of Justice

Francisco Javier Ndong Mbengono
 Ministro de Justicia y Culto
 Ministerio de Justicia y Culto
 Malabo
 Guinea Ecuatorial

Telegrams: Ministro de Justicia Ndong Mbengono
Telexes: 5405 GBNOM 5405 EG
Telephone: +240 9 2824
Salutation: Excelentísimo Seño/Dear Minister

Minister of Foreign Affairs
 Miguel Oyono Ndong Mifumu

Ministro de Asuntos Exteriores
Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores
Malabo
Guinea Ecuatorial

Telegrams: Ministro de Asuntos Exteriores Oyono Ndong Mifumu

Telexes: 5405 GBNOM 5405 EG

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COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO: diplomatic representatives of Equatorial Guinea
in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 30 May 1995.