

EXTERNAL

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FURTHER INFORMATION ON MEDICAL LETTER WRITING ACTION
(See AFR 44/21/95, 19 September 1995 and AFR 44/14/97, 17 July 1997)

Dr. Beko RANSOME-KUTI
NIGERIA

Dr Beko Ransome-Kuti, a medical doctor, former head of the Nigerian Medical Association, and a human rights and pro-democracy activist, was released on 16 June 1998. He had been arrested on 27 July 1995 and he was serving a 15-year-sentence following a secret trial by a military tribunal. Dr Beko Ransome-Kuti had been convicted of being an accessory to treason for distributing information about the proceedings of a Special Military Tribunal which unfairly tried and convicted 43 people in connection with an alleged coup attempt in March 1995.

Amnesty International had adopted Dr Beko Ransome-Kuti as a prisoner of conscience. Amnesty International had also made appeals for him to be safeguarded from harsh prison conditions and medical neglect after he was reported in January 1998 to have required emergency hospital treatment when he became ill in Katsina prison, northern Nigeria, with an acute peptic ulcer and heart problems. The Nigerian authorities said that he and some of the other nine prisoners released on 16 June 1998 were freed because of their ill-health.

No further action is required. Thank you to those who have appealed on Dr Beko Ransome-Kuti's behalf.

