

URGENT ACTION

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER RELEASED

Lawyer and human rights defender Fabián Nsue Nguema was released from detention on the evening of 30 October 2012. He had been held in Equatorial Guinea's Black Beach prison for three days with no acknowledgement from the authorities, before being transferred to the Central Police Station in the capital Malabo.

Fabián Nsue Nguema is the legal representative of a man who was arrested on around 16 October. On 22 October, Fabián Nsue Nguema tried to visit his client in Black Beach prison in Malabo. For the following three days, he was not seen or heard from, raising fears for his safety. Although his car was seen parked inside the prison precinct, the authorities refused to acknowledge that they were detaining him. While in Black Beach prison, he was held incommunicado, in a dark cell. He was not tortured or ill-treated in any other way.

On 25 October 2012, between 9.30 pm and 10 pm Fabián Nsue Nguema was transferred to Malabo's Central Police Station where he was held without charge until his release on 30 October 2012 at about 7 pm local time. At the police station Fabián Nsue Nguema was held in a large common cell together with many other detainees and was free to move about. His wife was able to visit daily, including taking him food.

International pressure after 22 October played a role in his reappearance and subsequent release.

Fabián Nsue Nguema's arrest and detention were illegal. He was arrested without an arrest warrant when trying to see his client in prison and was held without charge for well over the 72 hours prescribed by Equatorial Guinean law. While in Black Beach prison he was informed that his client had implicated Fabián Nsue Nguema in "an attempt to destabilise the country" but he was not given further details.

Over the years, Fabián Nsue Nguema has been a defence lawyer for political opponents and prisoners of conscience. He has previously been harassed and intimidated on many occasions. In April 2002 he was arrested as he was about to defend a group of political prisoners who were subsequently adopted as prisoners of conscience by Amnesty International. In July 2002, he was tried for defamation of President Obiang and sentenced to one year in prison. Amnesty International considered him to be a prisoner of conscience.

In June 2005 Fabián Nsue Nguema was arbitrarily suspended from the Bar Association for alleged misconduct, which was not specified

No further action is required by the UA Network. In Fabián Nsue Nguema's name we thank you for your work on his behalf.

This is the first update of UA 315/12. Further information: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AFR24/010/2012/en>

Name: Fabián Nsue Nguema
Gender: male

Further information on UA: 315/12 Index: AFR 24/011/2012 Issue Date: 31 October 2012

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