

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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This is a limited action. Please restrict appeals to 25 per section.

UA 69/95

Fear for safety

16 March 1995

KENYA

**Staff of the Kenya Human Rights Commission
Staff of *Kituo Cha Sheria*, legal aid centre**

On 15 March 1995 a fire bomb was thrown into the offices of *Kituo Cha Sheira*, a legal aid centre in Nairobi. This is the sixth violent attack in recent weeks on the offices, which are shared by the non-governmental Kenya Human Rights Commission. Amnesty International fears that there may be further attacks, resulting in loss of life.

At around 1pm on 15 March, two men approached the offices. One entered and threw the fire bomb into the reception, where two clients were waiting at the time. It exploded, destroying the reception area. At the same time, the second attacker shot at two security guards, hitting them both in the legs, before escaping with his accomplice in a waiting car. Eight staff members, trapped on the third floor of the building by the fire, attempted to rip off iron bars from windows in a bid to escape. Fortunately, the fire was extinguished, after causing an estimated KSh400,000 worth of damage, and there were no further injuries.

The office of the weekly magazine *Finance* suffered a similar attack on 1 February 1995. Amnesty International is concerned that the attacks are linked and are part of a pattern of intimidation of human rights activists and journalists who have publicly criticised the government.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of human rights activists and journalists in Kenya in view of recent attacks against their premises, most recently on 15 March 1995 at the offices of *Kituo Cha Sheria* in Nairobi;
- calling on the government to take immediate steps to ensure their protection from further attacks;
- calling for a full, prompt and independent investigation into all these incidents, and to bring those responsible to justice.

APPEALS TO

President Daniel arap Moi
Office of the President
PO Box 30510
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Kenya

**Telegrams: President Moi, Kenya
Telexes: 22003 FOREIGN ROB or 22796 FOREIGN RB
Faxes: +254 2 337340
Salutation: Your Excellency**

Mr Amos Wako
Attorney General
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PO Box 40112
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Kenya

Telegrams: Attorney General Wako, Nairobi, Kenya

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Salutation: Dear Attorney General

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Mr Paul Wamae

Chairman

Law Society of Kenya

PO Box 72219

Nairobi

Kenya

and to diplomatic representatives of Kenya accredited to your country

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 2 May 1995.