

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AFR 17/04/94  
Distr: UA/SC

UA 60/94      Legal concern / Prisoner of Conscience /  
                 Health concern

18 February 1994

**CAMEROON** Janvier DENY, taxi driver, aged 32, treasurer of local section of an opposition party, the *Union des forces démocratiques du Cameroun (UFDC)*, Union of Cameroon Democratic Forces

---

Janvier Deny was arrested on 12 January 1994 and is being held in indefinite administrative detention. Amnesty International believes that he is being detained solely because of his peaceful political activities, and is concerned that his health has deteriorated since his arrest. It also appears that his arrest may be an attempt by the authorities to intimidate opposition political parties before local government elections (*élections municipales*) which are scheduled to take place in the coming months.

Janvier Deny was arrested in Ebolowa, Southern Province, 165 kilometres south of the capital, Yaoundé, after the police found on the rear seat of his taxi a copy of minutes (*procès-verbal*) of a meeting organized by some teachers (*enseignants de la Fonction publique*). Although Janvier Deny denied any connection with the document, he was arrested and taken to a police station (*commissariat*) where he remains in custody.

He has not been charged or brought before a judicial authority. However, on 24 January the Senior Divisional Officer (*préfet*) of the Department of Ntem issued an administrative detention order (*arrêté portant internement administratif*) on the grounds of incitement to revolt, disruption of public order and threatening the forces of law and order (*incitation à la révolte, trouble de l'ordre public et menaces contre des agents du maintien de l'ordre*). The detention order was renewed for a further 15 days on 7 February and may again be renewed. Janvier Deny appears to be held under the provisions of legislation introduced in December 1990 which gave broad powers of administrative detention to a wide range of government officials and which provided no safeguards against arbitrary detention.

Janvier Deny is reported to be suffering from malaria and diarrhoea. He is allowed visits by his family, but he is not receiving adequate medical treatment. He was admitted to hospital on 28 January but, despite his poor health, was returned to a police cell.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The UFDC is part of a coalition of opposition political parties known as the Union for Change (*Union pour le changement*) which disputes the results of presidential elections held in October 1992. President Paul Biya was re-elected, narrowly defeating John Fru Ndi, leader of the Social Democratic Front (SDF). There were reports of widespread electoral fraud.

During the past year hundreds of critics and opponents of the government of President Biya have been detained for short periods, usually without charge or trial. In March 1993 more than 100 members of the UFDC were arrested at the headquarters of the party in Yaoundé and detained for one week. Some of those arrested, including the UFDC's president, Dr Victorin François Hameni Bieleu, were beaten at the time of their arrest or during their detention.

In January 1994, 11 teachers, members of the *Syndicat national autonome de*

*l'Enseignement secondaire*, National Autonomous Union of Secondary Education, were arrested and held without charge for six days in connection with a strike by teachers in protest against a sharp reduction in salaries.

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

- expressing concern about the detention since 12 January 1994 of Janvier Demy, and the use by the authorities of an administrative detention order to keep him in custody indefinitely;
- stating that Amnesty International believes that he is a prisoner of conscience and urging his immediate and unconditional release;
- expressing concern about reports that his health has deteriorated since his arrest and urging that he receive all necessary medical treatment;
- urging the authorities to end the harassment, arrest and detention of critics and opponents of the government solely for peacefully exercising their rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly.

**APPEALS TO**

1) President:

Son Excellence Monsieur Paul Biya  
Président de la République  
Palais de l'Unité  
Yaoundé, Cameroon

**Telegrams: President Biya, Yaounde, Cameroon**

**Faxes: + 237 221699**

**Telexes: 8207 PRESID KN (Secretariat général)**

**8595 PRESID B KN (Cabinet civil)**

**Salutation: Monsieur le Président de la République/Dear President Biya**

2) Prime Minister:

Mr Simon Achidi Achu  
Prime Minister  
Prime Minister's Office  
Immeuble Etoile  
Yaoundé, Cameroon

**Telegrams: Prime Minister Achu, Yaounde, Cameroon**

**Faxes: + 237 235765**

**Telexes: 8282 KN**

**Salutation: Dear Prime Minister/Monsieur le Premier Ministre**

3) Deputy Prime Minister in charge of Internal Affairs:

M. Gilbert Andzé Tsoungui  
Vice-Premier Ministre chargé de l'Administration territoriale  
Ministère de l'Administration territoriale  
1000 Yaoundé 4, Cameroon

**Telegrams: Vice-Premier Ministre chargé de l'Administration territoriale Tsoungui, Yaounde, Cameroon**

**Salutation: Monsieur le Vice-Premier Ministre/Dear Deputy Prime Minister**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

Dr Solomon Nfor Gwei  
President  
National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms  
PO Box 20317  
Yaoundé, Cameroon

Cameroon Post, BP 1981, Yaoundé, Cameroon  
Peuple d'Afrique, BP 1287, Yaoundé, Cameroon  
La Gazette, BP 5485, Douala, Cameroon  
Dikalo, BP 12656, Douala, Cameroon

and to diplomatic representatives of Cameroon accredited to your country

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 1 April 1994.