

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AFR 44/08/94  
Distr: UA/SC

21 July 1994

Further information on UA 219/94 (AFR 44/05/94, 8 June 1994) - Prisoner of conscience / death penalty

NIGERIA: Ameh Ebute, lawyer, former President of the Senate  
Chief Polycarp Nwite, former Senator  
Onyeka A. Okoroafor, former Abia State Senator

new names: Abu Ibrahim, former Katsina State Senator  
The Reverend Dr Maconyemечи O. Nwulu, former Senator  
Bola Ahmed Tinubu, former Senator

---

The six former Senators named above remain in detention awaiting trial. Amnesty International is calling for their immediate and unconditional release as prisoners of conscience, imprisoned because of their non-violent political activities.

The six, arrested between 2 and 6 June 1994, were charged on 14 June with "treasonable felony" and conspiracy. Treasonable felony is a lesser charge than the capital charge of treason, and is punishable by life imprisonment. The charges relate to the secret meeting of former members of the Senate and the subsequent publication on 1 June of a statement urging General Sani Abacha, the head of state, to stand down and calling for the restoration of democratic institutions. The six were remanded in custody to await trial and are detained at Alagbon Close police station, Ikoyi, Lagos.

They are among hundreds of pro-democracy activists who have been imprisoned in recent weeks, many following demonstrations and protests, some of which have resulted in clashes with police. On 18 July, at least 20 demonstrators were reportedly killed by police during rioting in Lagos.

Many of those arrested have been released without charge; others have been released on bail to await trial. Founding members of the National Democratic Coalition (NADECO), a grouping of former political leaders and pro-democracy activists, have been charged with forming an illegal organization: **Chief Olusegun Osoba**, former Ogun State Governor (listed on the original UA), **Air Commodore (retd) Jonah Jang**, former Benue State Governor, and **Air Commodore (retd) Dan Suleiman**, former Plateau State Governor, were charged on 9 June and released on bail pending trial. **Beko Ransome-Kuti**, President of the Campaign for Democracy and the Committee for the Defence of Human Rights, was arrested on 9 June and detained incommunicado until 28 June when he was released on bail to await trial on charges of treasonable felony, accused of publishing a pamphlet which declares the military government to be illegal.

Amnesty International is also calling for a halt to the prosecution of all those, whether in detention or currently released on bail, who have been charged with treasonable felony or other political offences and who would become prisoners of conscience if convicted and sentenced to prison terms.

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/express and airmail letters:**

- expressing concern at the continued remand in custody of Ameh Ebute, Chief Polycarp Nwite, Onyeka A. Okoroafor, Abu Ibrahim, the Reverend Dr Maconyemечи

O. Nwulu and Bola Ahmed Tinubu;

- calling for their immediate and unconditional release on the grounds that they are prisoners of conscience, detained for their non-violent political activities and criticism of the government;

- calling also for a halt to the prosecution of all those, whether in detention or currently released on bail, who have been charged with treasonable felony or other political offences and who would become prisoners of conscience if convicted and sentenced to prison terms.

**APPEALS TO:**

1. General Sani Abacha

Chairman, Provisional Ruling Council,

Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces and Minister of Defence

State House, Abuja

Federal Capital Territory, Nigeria

**Telexes: (0905) 91529 or 91530 EXTNAL NG (via Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**

**Telegrams: General Abacha, Abuja, Nigeria**

**Salutation: Dear General Abacha**

2. Lieutenant-General D.O. Diya

Chief of General Staff

State House, Abuja

Federal Capital Territory, Nigeria

**Telegrams: Chief of Staff Diya, Abuja, Nigeria**

**Salutation: Dear Lieutenant-General Diya**

3. Dr Olu Onagoruwa

Minister of Justice and Attorney General

Ministry of Justice

Abuja, Federal Capital Territory, Nigeria

**Telegrams: Minister of Justice Onagoruwa, Abuja, Nigeria**

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

Baba Gana Kingibe

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

PMB 130, Abuja

Federal Capital Territory, Nigeria

The Editor, *The Punch*, PMB 21204, Ikeja, Lagos, Nigeria

The Editor, *The Guardian*, PMB 1217, Oshodi, Lagos, Nigeria

The Editor, *Daily Express*, POB 163, Lagos, Nigeria

The Editor, *Newswatch*, PMB 21499, Ikeja, Lagos, Nigeria

The Editor, *Nigerian Standard*, PMB 2112, Jos, Plateau State, Nigeria

The Editor, *Weekly Sunray*, 220 Aba Road, Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria

and to diplomatic representatives of NIGERIA accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 31 August 1994.