

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 212/94 (AFR 44/04/94, 3 June) - Death Penalty

NIGERIA                    Gabriel Ali, 28  
                              Gabriel Uche  
                              Samuel Ani  
                              Edwin Agbo  
                              Roman Peters  
                              Sunday Eze

**New name:**                Simeon Agbo, 24

On 2 August 1994, 38 prisoners were executed by firing squad before a crowd of 20,000 in Enugu, southeast Nigeria. It was reported that one of them, 24-year-old Simeon Agbo, survived the execution and rose to his feet an hour later, bleeding from wounds to his stomach and shoulders, to protest his innocence and plead for water. Police reportedly threw him onto a lorryload of corpses and journalists were unable to find out what had subsequently happened to him. It is feared that the other six prisoners named above were among those executed.

Amnesty International is dismayed that the military government which seized power in November 1993 has restored mass public executions by firing squad.

The organization unconditionally opposes the death penalty as a violation of the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment, as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Furthermore, Amnesty International believes that public executions have a brutalizing effect on those who witness such human rights abuse.

Since February 1994, at least 97 people have been executed in Akwa Ibom, Enugu, Imo, Kano, and Lagos states. Most had been convicted by Robbery and Firearms Tribunals, special courts which cannot guarantee fair trials and which allow no right of appeal to a higher, independent jurisdiction. Between February and June, 30 prisoners convicted of armed robbery were publicly executed in Akwa Ibom State, southeast Nigeria, some within days of being sentenced. On 24 May, four prisoners - including a woman, Elizabeth Oleru - were executed before large crowds at a race course in Kano, northern Nigeria.

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams, telexes, express and airmail letters (\*):**

- expressing deep regret at the public execution of 38 prisoners in Enugu on 2 August 1994;
- expressing concern at reports that Simeon Agbo, who survived the execution, lay wounded on the ground for an hour without medical treatment before being thrown onto a lorryload of corpses to be taken away by police;
- calling for an open and independent inquiry into this cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, with a view to bringing to justice those responsible;
- seeking information about the ultimate fate of Simeon Agbo and whether the other six prisoners named above were among those executed;
- expressing concern that the military government has restored mass executions in public and that at least 97 people are known to have been executed since February 1994 in Akwa Ibom, Enugu, Imo, Kano and Lagos states;
- reiterating Amnesty International's unconditional opposition to the death penalty in all cases on the grounds that it is a cruel, inhuman and degrading

punishment which violates the right to life and has been shown to have no special deterrent effect;

- calling on the military government to stop all executions.

**APPEALS TO:**

*\* The postal service in Nigeria may be affected at the moment by strike action, so telegrams and telexes may be the only way of sending urgent appeals to Nigerian government officials. Some appeals should be sent directly to the Nigerian Embassy or High Commission in your country asking that your concerns be conveyed urgently to the appropriate authorities in Nigeria.*

1. General Sani Abacha  
Chairman, Provisional Ruling Council 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. Captain Temi Ejoor  
State Military Administrator  
Government House, Enugu  
Enugu State, Nigeria  
**Telegrams: State Administrator, Enugu, Nigeria**  
**Salutation: Dear State Administrator**

3. Dr Olu Onagoruwa  
Minister of Justice and Attorney General,  
Ministry of Justice,  
State House, Abuja  
Federal Capital Territory, Nigeria  
**Telegrams: Minister of Justice, Abuja, Nigeria**  
**Salutation: Dear Minister**

4. Baba Gana Kingibe,  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
PMB 130, Abuja  
Federal Capital Territory, Nigeria  
**Telegrams: Minister of Foreign Affairs, Abuja, Nigeria**  
**Telexes: (0905) 91529 or 91530 EXTNAL NG**  
**Salutation: Dear Minister**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

The Editor, *The Guardian*, PMB 1217, Oshodi, Lagos, Nigeria  
The Editor, *Newswatch*, PMB 21499, Ikeja, Lagos, Nigeria  
The Editor, *The Daily Star*, PMB 1139, Enugu, Nigeria  
The Editor, *Triumph*, PMB 3155, Kano, Nigeria  
The Editor, *Pioneer*, 13 Udo-Umanah Street, Uyo, Akwa Ibom 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 22 September 1994.