

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 340/92 (AFR 36/42/92, 4 November 1992) - Legal concern/Fear of torture/Possible extrajudicial execution

MALAWI:ULAYA, male, first name unknown, member of Alliance for Democracy (AFORD)
Ten other supporters of AFORD

and new names: Chakufwa CHIHANA, trade union official, president of AFORD
Bazuka MHANGO, lawyer

On 4 November 1992, unidentified assailants attacked a car carrying Chakufwa Chihana, president of the Alliance for Democracy (AFORD), and his lawyer, Bazuka Mhango, as they were leaving the High Court in Lilongwe. The car was pelted with stones and Bazuka Mhango was slightly injured. Chakufwa Chihana is currently on trial for sedition. The alleged sedition is contained in speeches made by Chakufwa Chihana calling for the introduction of a multi-party political system in Malawi.

On 2 November 1992, 10 AFORD supporters were arrested outside the court where Chakufwa Chihana's trial was taking place and three others severely beaten, one of whom died later in hospital.

AFORD has stated that the Minister of Health, Hetherwick Ntaba, has announced that the government had banned the organization.

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

- seeking guarantees of the physical safety of Chakufwa Chihana and Bazuka Mhango;
- expressing concern at reports that members or supporters of AFORD have been arrested because of their activities in support of a multi-party system;
- seeking information about the whereabouts and legal basis for the detention of Mr Ulaya and the 10 people arrested outside the trial of Chakufwa Chihana and calling for them to be released unless they are to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence and brought promptly to trial;
- seeking assurances that they are being humanely treated while in custody and have access to visits from family and lawyers of their choice;

- calling for an independent investigation into the reported death of a person beaten by police and Malawi Young Pioneers in Lilongwe on 2 November 1992.

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APPEALS TO:

1) His Excellency the Life-President Dr H Kamuzu Banda
Office of the President and Cabinet
P/Bag 301
Lilongwe 3
Malawi

Telegrams: Life-President Banda, Lilongwe, Malawi
Telexes: 44389 PRES MI; 4476 JUSTICE MI; 44113 EXTERNAL MI
Faxes: +265 731878

Salutation: Your Excellency

2) Hon. J Z U Tembo
Minister of State in the Office of the President
P/Bag 301
Lilongwe 3
Malawi

Telegrams: Minister of State Tembo, Lilongwe, Malawi
Telexes: 44389 PRES MI; 4476 JUSTICE MI; 44113 EXTERNAL MI
Faxes: +265 731878

Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Mr McWilliam Lunguzi
Inspector General of Police
P/Bag 305
Lilongwe 3
Malawi

and to diplomatic representatives of Malawi accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 21 December 1992.