

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 329/92 (AFR 36/40/92, 22 October 1992) and follow-up AFR 36/41/92 of 4 November 1992 - Death in custody of prisoner of conscience/Legal concern

MALAWI:Orton CHIRWA, aged 73, lawyer and politician

~~Vera CHIRWA, female, aged 60, lawyer and politician~~

Reverend Aaron LONGWE, presbyterian minister

a schoolboy

a school receptionist

Amnesty International has learned that Vera Chirwa was allowed to receive a visit from her children who were visiting Malawi to attend the funeral of her husband, Orton Chirwa.

In the previous follow-up to this Urgent Action (AFR 36/42/92, 4 November 1992) it was stated that Orton Chirwa's funeral passed off peacefully. Although the ceremony itself was peaceful, youths are reported to have beaten to death a person who was allegedly trying to throw a grenade at the vehicle carrying members of the Chirwa family.

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

- welcoming the decision to allow Vera Chirwa's children to visit her and calling for her immediate and unconditional release.

- expressing concern at reports that several people, including Reverend Longwe, were arrested because they had expressed concern about the death of Orton Chirwa and seeking information about the whereabouts and legal basis for the detention of the schoolboy and school receptionist arrested at the same time;

- calling for their immediate and unconditional release if they are still detained and for the withdrawal of criminal charges against Reverend Longwe;

- calling for an inquest into the death of Orton Chirwa, in accordance with the Inquests Act.

APPEALS TO:

1. President:

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; 44766 JUSTICE MI; 44113 EXTERNAL MI
Faxes: +265 731878

Salutation: Your Excellency

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2. Minister of State in the Office of the President:

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; 44766 JUSTICE MI; 44113 EXTERNAL MI
Faxes: +265 731878

Salutation: Dear Minister

3. Minister of Justice:

Hon. F L Makuta

Minister of Justice
P/Bag 333
Lilongwe 3
Malawi

Telegrams: Justice Minister Makuta, Lilongwe, Malawi
Telexes: 44766 JUSTICE MI

Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Commissioner of Prisons
PO Box 28
Zomba
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.