

URGENT ACTION

OPPOSITION LEADER'S FAMILY FREE, 11 STILL JAILED

The wife and brother of opposition leader Jerónimo Ndong were released from police custody on 20 May, but Jerónimo Ndong is now detained without charge, together with 10 others arrested in the context of a failed demonstration.

Medianera and **Ubaldo Mesi Ndong**, respectively the wife and brother of **Jerónimo Ndong**, the Secretary General of the People's Union (Unión Popular – UP) opposition party were released from police custody on 20 May at about 4.30 pm. **Jerónimo Ndong** gave himself in to the police about half an hour later, although he was not aware that his family had already been released. He went to Malabo Central police Station accompanied by his lawyer and the president of the UP. He was told that he was needed in order to sign a statement. However, no statement was presented. The chief police officer reportedly told them that they had to wait for the arrival of the Minister of National Security. However, (as of 23 May at 11 am), he remains detained at the police station, without charge. His wife was able to see him on the morning of 22 May, but has not been allowed to see him since

Ten other people arrested between 13 and 15 May in the context of the failed planned demonstration on 15 May continue to be held without charge in incommunicado detention. **Luis Nzo**, arrested on 13 May, in the street in Malabo, as he was announcing the demonstration with a megaphone; **Salvador Bibang Ela**, leader of the opposition party People's Social Democratic Convergence (Convergencia Social Democrática Popular) and six others are being held at Malabo Central Police Station; while two women, **Clara Nsegue Eyí** and **Natalia Angue Edjodjomo**, coordinators of the demonstration and founders of the political party Democratic Party for Social Justice (Partido Democrático de la Justicia Social – PDJS), continued to be held without charge in the Gendarmerie in the city of Mongomo, in the north east of the mainland part of the country.

All these detainees appear to be prisoners of conscience, arrested for attempting to exercise their right to freedom of expression and assembly. Amnesty International calls for their immediate and unconditional release

Please to write immediately in Spanish or your own language:

- Expressing concern about the arrest and incommunicado detention of the prisoners of conscience mentioned above (please name them)
- Calling for the immediate and unconditional release of these prisoners of conscience, as they have been arrested solely for exercising their rights to freedom of expression and assembly.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 03 JULY 2013 TO:

Attorney General

David Nguema Obiang
Fiscal General de la República
Fiscalía General de la República,
Malabo, Equatorial Guinea
Fax: +240 333 09 1338; 4961
(between 8.30am and 3.30 pm GMT)
**Salutation: Sr Don/Dear Attorney
General**

Minister of Interior and Local

Administration
Clemente Engonga Nguema Onguena
Ministero del Interior y Corporaciones
Locales
Ministerio del Interior y Corporaciones
Locales
Malabo, Equatorial Guinea
Fax: +240 333 09 2683/2688/3406
(between 8.30am and 3.30 pm GMT)
Salutation: Sr Don/Dear Minister

And copies to:

President
General Teodoro Obiang Nguema
Mbasogo
Presidente de la República
Gabinete del Presidente de la República
Malabo, Equatorial Guinea
Fax: +240 333 093313 /3334/0267
(between 8.30am and 3.30 pm GMT)
**Salutation: Excelencia/Your
Excellency**

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country.

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the first update of UA 132/13. Further information:

<http://amnesty.org/en/library/info/AFR24/002/2013/en>

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Partido Democrático de la Justicia Social - PDJS (Democratic Party for Social Justice) was founded in January 2013 but the authorities have refused to legalise it. In late April 2013 the Movimiento de Protesta Popular (People's Protest Movement), which comprises individuals as well as some political opposition parties was created, partly to protest at the refusal of the authorities to legalise the PDJS and to demand fundamental freedoms and dialogue with the government. On 2 May they informed the authorities in writing of their intention to stage a peaceful demonstration on 15 May. The authorities did not respond. However, the Minister of Interior reportedly told some of the organisers, verbally, that they had no permission to demonstrate.

On 8 May, at about 2 pm, one of the organisers of the demonstration, Enrique Nsolo Ndong, a university teacher, was beaten by a group of six young men as he was preparing a banner for the demonstration, who then dragged him out of the building and put him in a waiting police car. He was taken to the central police station in Malabo. He was released later that evening without charge. He has since been dismissed from his teaching post at the university. His father and elder brother were arrested in their town on the mainland on 14 May and transferred to the ministry of Interior in Malabo. They were released late in the evening of 15 May after being told to persuade Enrique Nsolo to desist from his political activities.

Equatorial Guineans go to the polls on 26 May to elect a new parliament, over 230 local councillors and, for the first time, 55 of the 70 members of the new Senate. The remaining 15 will be appointed directly by President Obiang Nguema. The government has a record of cracking down on political opponents ahead of elections, often citing security reasons and alleging coup attempts.

Name: Jerónimo Ndong (m), Luis Nzo (m), Salvador Bibang Ela (m), Clara Nsegue Eyí (f), Natalia Angue Edjodjomo (f) and six other detainees (m)

Gender m/f: both

Further information on UA: 132/13 Index: AFR 24/003/2013 Issue Date: 23 May 2013