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@30th Anniversary Campaign - 3rd Update

Kenya

(Update first issued - 4 April 1991)

The Reverend Lawford Imunde was freed. His conviction was upheld on account of his "confession" but the court said his sentence of six years, (for notes in his diary), was "overly harsh". The court reduced his sentence to the amount he had already served and therefore released him.

The following is an extract from a letter AI has received from Reverend Imunde:-

"Dear Friends

Just a note to say that I am out. I cannot thank you enough for all your struggles on my behalf. Please accept - `many thanks'.

I am happy to say:-

`Many may mishandle the truth, but for all that they do not do away with it. And it is the only thing that remains when everything perishes!'

Till then,

God bless you all.

Lawford Imunde"

A replacement case was not issued, and no further membership action is needed on the case. Please remember in your publicity actions that Reverend Imunde is still living in Kenya. It was suggested that sections might be interested to look at AFR 32/05/91, issued in February 1991. This external document contained the case of another Kenyan, Kenneth Matiba, who was in indefinite administrative detention. However, this case has now also been closed, as Kenneth Matiba was released.

China

(Update first issued - 4 April 1991)

In the recommended actions for the case of Wang Xizhe, there is a reference to the case of Liu Qing. As Liu Qing's circumstances had changed, sections were asked to remove the reference to Liu Qing from the recommended actions, and therefore from any letter writing activities.

Guatemala

(Update 1. first issued - 10 April 1991, see attached)

(Update 2. first issued - with this circular and by fax to sections, see attached)

The four police officers detained in connection with the death of Nahaman Carmona Lopez were tried and sentenced to prison terms of between 10-15 years. Sections were asked to reword the "What you can do" section of the appeal case. A copy of that first update is attached.

However, the IS subsequently received a communication from Guatemala, stating that the sentences were overturned. Details of this development, and **Recommended Actions** for sections working on the case, are attached to this circular.

Turkey

Erhan Tuskan was released. This was a result of legislation introduced in Turkey, which abolished the laws under which Erhan Tuskan was detained. At the same time a new anti-terrorist law was introduced. Letter writing on the case should be stopped. The case does not have to be withdrawn from publicity materials, but if possible, "released" should be indicated on the material. If this is not possible, you can still use the case as he was sentenced to 36 years for articles published in his magazine. However, the letter-writing instructions must be removed from materials.

Israel

(Update first issued - 22 May 1991)

Following the Urgent Action originally issued on the case of 'Abd al-Ra'uf Ghabin, the Israeli authorities had been responding to AI members who wrote about the case, basically denying the allegations of torture or ill-treatment. Having contacted the lawyer involved in this case, AI received updated information, and therefore made some amendments to the original

publicity text contained in 30th Anniversary Appeal Cases, ACT 30/02/91. A full amended version of the text is attached. Please use this in place of the original.

Ethiopia

(Update first issued - 4 June 1991)

Mulugetta Mosissa was released on 28 May 1991 after over 11 years' imprisonment, when the prison guards at Maikelawi detention centre abandoned their posts and left cell doors open, fleeing from the forces of the EPRDF, who captured Addis Ababa that day. Mulugetta Mosissa was able to walk to freedom and rejoin his wife, Namat Issa, also arrested in 1980, but released in 1989, and their son, Amonsissa, who was born in prison, and released with his mother in 1989.

Both Mulugetta Mosissa and his son, Amonsissa, are in need of medical attention as a result of their imprisonment. The family will be travelling to the UK for treatment at the Medical Foundation.

There is a photograph of the family, taken after Mulugetta Mosissa's release, available in ISD. Mulugetta Mosissa sent a note with the photograph saying:-

"First of all we would like to send our greetings and thanks to Amnesty International for all the help that has been and is still being given to us. ... Please convey our greetings and gratitude to those who have been helping us in every way."

No further membership action is required.

Sudan

(Update first issued - 7 June 1991)

Following AI's Weekly Update, (attached), about an announcement by the Sudanese Government that political prisoners were to be released, AI received confirmation that Dr Ushari Ahmed Mahmoud, was released. However, restrictions were placed on Dr Mahmoud and he is not allowed to leave the capital city Khartoum. He was also required to sign an undertaking not to engage in political activities. This case can still be used for publicity work to demonstrate AI's concerns in Sudan. However, please revise the recommended actions for letter writing, as follows:-

*Write to the Sudanese Head of State. Welcome news of the amnesty for political prisoners and the release of Dr Ushari Ahmed Mahmoud.

*Express concern about the restrictions still placed on Dr Mahmoud, and ask that they be lifted.

Malawi

(UA first issued 26 July 1991)

An Urgent Action (no. 261/91) was issued, which included information that Orton Chirwa was being held in leg irons as a punishment. The UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners expressly forbids the use of chains or irons as either a restraint or as a punishment. In the early years after his arrest in 1981, Orton Chirwa was held in leg-irons for long periods, but more recently his conditions were believed to have improved. It is thought that Orton Chirwa is being punished for sending correspondence out of the prison, smuggled via a warder at Zomba Central Prison. The warder has been detained because of this. The action also sought assurances that all prisoners held for political reasons, including Orton Chirwa, are allowed to send and receive correspondence, subject to normal considerations of prison security.

Additional Materials

Venezuela

The IS obtained a poem written by Crisanto Mederos' mother, Margarita, which could be used for publicity work. It was sent to each campaign coordinator in Spanish, French and English on 26 July 1991.

USSR

The IS now has a photograph of Nikolay Shust. One copy was sent to each campaign coordinator on 2 August 1991.

If your section has not received either of the above materials, please contact the Campaign and Membership Department at the IS for copies.