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Amnesty International
International Secretariat
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London WC1X 8DJ
United Kingdom

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AFRICA: APPEALS FOR ACADEMICS AND STUDENTS WHO ARE PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE IN 1990

1. Introduction

Academics and students have been detained or attacked by government forces for political reasons in numerous countries in Africa during 1990. Some have been killed or assaulted and many have been detained for short periods, provoking some to flee abroad to escape further repression. A few have been kept in prison for longer periods, joining academics arrested in previous years who have not yet been freed in countries such as Malawi and Sudan. Those held for long periods who are detained on account of their academic work or for their non-violent peaceful political activities are considered to be prisoners of conscience by Amnesty International which is campaigning for their early and unconditional release. Their cases are described in this report.

2. News of academics imprisoned in 1989

It is almost a year since Amnesty International published a similar five-page report about academics detained in African countries (Academics imprisoned in African countries who are prisoners of conscience, AI Index: AFR 01/02/89, issued in December 1989). That report described the cases of academics imprisoned in Congo, Malawi, South Africa, and Sudan. Many of those mentioned were subsequently released: indeed, it is only in **Malawi** that none of those named have been released (**Blaise Machira, Jack Mapanje** and **Vera Chirwa**).

The Congolese university lecturer, **Lecas Atondi Monmonjo**, was released in August 1990 as part of a general amnesty for political prisoners, after being detained without charge or trial for three years. The South Africans from the University of the North in Turfloop, lecturer **Louis Aaron Mnguni** and librarian **Thiswilandi Rejoice (Joyce) Mabudafhasi**, had all restrictions on their freedom of movement lifted in February 1990 when State President F W de Klerk announced the lifting of all restriction orders imposed under State of Emergency regulations. Louis Aaron Mnguni was detained again for almost a month in April 1990, but has been free since the end of April 1990.

In Sudan many academics are still detained, uncharged and often in arduous conditions. **Dr Bashir Omar Fadlalla**, a Khartoum university lecturer and former government minister, was freed in February 1990, but rearrested in May 1990. More recently, lecturer **Dr Ali Abdallah Abbas** was released in August 1990. The two others mentioned in Amnesty International's December 1990 report, **Dr Ushari Ahmed Mahmoud** and **Dr Khalid al-Kid**, both arrested in mid-1989, are still imprisoned.

3. Developments in 1990

The first nine months of 1990 have seen the pace of political change speed up in many countries in Africa. One-party states have been giving way to multi-party systems and new constitutions have been introduced or are under consideration in many countries. Occasionally governments have taken the lead in introducing changes, sometimes under pressure from outside; more often than not, however, changes have only come about after pressure from within, and academics and students have been at the forefront of the campaigns for political reform, often becoming targets for repression as a result. Repression against students and academics has produced some startling incidents. In **Zaire**, considerable publicity has been given to an attack on students in May 1990, which left a number of students dead: the disguised assailants have yet to be identified. In **Somalia**, where numerous academics have been imprisoned for political reasons in the past, over 100 prominent people were arrested in Mogadishu in early June 1990. They had signed an open "manifesto" sent to President Mohamed Siad Barre, expressing concern at the consequences of civil war and criticizing the government for abuses of human rights, corruption and economic mismanagement. One of those arrested was **Ibrahim Mohamoud Abyan**, an academic consultant and former director of the Somali Institute for Development Administration and Management (SIDAM). He and 44 others were charged with treason, facing mandatory death sentences if convicted. They were brought to trial in late July, however, acquitted and freed - but still threatened with rearrest if they continued their political activities !

Besides countries where there have been campaigns for political reforms this year, an even greater number of countries have been maintaining repressive policies which effectively outlaw dissent and result in even non-violent critics or opponents being imprisoned. This is certainly the situation in **Malawi**, where no releases of prisoners of conscience have been reported this year. It is also the situation in **Sudan**, where repression has if anything grown worse in 1990, with academics from a wide variety of ideological backgrounds being imprisoned. Political repression and violations of human rights have also continued at a high level in **Chad**, where at least one academic is among several hundred people detained in May 1989 who have in effect "disappeared" while in custody: his case was not mentioned last year, when Amnesty International was not yet sure that he was a prisoner of conscience, and is mentioned this year for the first time. Similarly, this year's appeals include a Rwandese student who was detained without

trial for almost four years, during which time few details were available about the reasons for his detention; this year he has been one of many people brought to trial and sentenced to terms of imprisonment on account of their non-violent opposition to the policies of **Rwanda's** government and the one-party state.

This year's appeals also concern several countries in North Africa which were not mentioned last year, **Morocco** and **Tunisia**. Numerous students were arrested in Morocco for political reasons in 1989: some were subjected to torture and about 85 were brought to trial. A further seven were tried in July 1990 after spending a year in pre-trial detention. They were convicted and sentenced to terms of up to three years' imprisonment for belonging to an illegal Marxist-Leninist organization and may well be prisoners of conscience. The Moroccan prisoner of conscience mentioned below, however, is one who has already been in prison for 16 years since his arrest in 1974.

The most tragic cases reported in 1990 have concerned academics who have been arrested and who have subsequently lost their lives. One of the most outrageous cases is that of **Guillaume Sessouma**, a university teacher in **Burkina Faso**, aged 38, who is reported to have died in early January 1990 as a result of injuries received during torture while detained incommunicado. He had been arrested only a week earlier, together with at least 30 others accused of conspiring to overthrow the government. Amnesty International believes, however, that Guillaume Sessouma may have been arrested solely because of his political opinions.

Guillaume Sessouma was seen by no one after his arrest on or very shortly after 23 December 1989 but is believed to have been held either at the Présidence or the Conseil de l'Entente building in Ouagadougou. In early January 1990 the Burkinabè authorities announced that he and three others had escaped from detention - one version was that they had escaped from hospital -and that "it was unlikely that they would be seen again". Contradictory official statements and the absence of any news of the whereabouts of Guillaume Sessouma in the following months exacerbated fears for his safety. The government persistently refused to acknowledge that he was held but Amnesty International received detailed reports in September 1990, confirming that he had died as a result of torture. The government continues to deny responsibility and to claim that he escaped.

Guillaume Sessouma, who had studied plant biology at Dijon university in France and undertaken research at Groningen University in the Netherlands, was a lecturer at the University of Ouagadougou, and had previously been director of the Institut du développement rural, Institute of Rural Development, in Ouagadougou. He was married with three children, the youngest of whom was born after his death.

Cases in which academics or students lost their lives in 1989 have also remained unresolved. Three academics and two students of the Somali National University were killed in a massacre of 46 suspected government opponents by soldiers near Mogadishu in July

1989, but the government has failed to disclose the findings of a commission of inquiry into the massacre or to reply to the international concern expressed about it.

In addition to the academics and students mentioned here, there are of course others who are imprisoned for political reasons, but who have not at this stage been adopted by Amnesty International as prisoners of conscience. In some cases the authorities have claimed that those under arrest have used violence and the accusations have not yet been tested in public. In other cases, insufficient information is available to Amnesty International: this hampered Amnesty International's work on behalf of Rwandese student **Innocent Ndayambaje** for three and a half years after his arrest in 1986 until his trial earlier this year, when sufficient information became available for the organization to adopt him a prisoner of conscience and to begin appeals for his release.

4. Appeal cases

BURKINA FASO

At least 16 students from the University of Ouagadougou have been held without charge or trial since their arrest in May 1990. They have been denied all visits since their arrest and are at serious risk of ill-treatment.

At the beginning of May 1990 the Association nationale des étudiants burkinabè (ANEB), National Association of Burkinabè Students, presented a number of demands to the university authorities, including an improvement in grants and material conditions at the university and to be allowed to use rooms in the university to hold ANEB meetings. These demands were refused. Relations between students and the university authorities deteriorated, and the ANEB occupied rooms at the university in order to hold its meetings, apparently disrupting classes. The police and army were reported to have intervened and 10 students were dismissed from the university for disciplinary reasons.

On 16 May 1990 students staged a demonstration at the university to demand the reinstatement of their colleagues and also press for negotiations to take place with the university authorities to resolve problems at the university. Fifteen more students were dismissed, and on 18 May 1990 ANEB organized a meeting at the Bourse de travail, the Labour Exchange, in Ouagadougou. This meeting was dispersed by the police and several students were arrested. Although some were subsequently released, at least 16 were believed to be still held in September 1990. Among them are ANEB's president, **Seni Konanda**, **Sie Souleymane Coulibaly**, a member of the executive committee of ANEB, and **Boukary Dabo**, a medical student.

Jean-Clément Bagré, also a student and a member of the Union générale des étudiants burkinabè (UGEB), General Union of Burkinabè Students, was reported to have been arrested on 30 May 1990,

apparently in connection with incidents at the university in previous weeks.

Half of the students are believed to be still in incommunicado detention in Ouagadougou, either in the basement of the Direction de la sûreté nationale, the security service headquarters, at the Gendarmerie nationale, the national police headquarters, or at the Conseil de l'Entente building. They have been denied all visits since their arrest and their families have not been informed of their place of detention. In the past, Amnesty International has received reports that people detained for political reasons and held in incommunicado detention have been tortured and ill-treated.

For example, students and school-children arrested in May 1988 following peaceful demonstrations were severely beaten while held at the Direction de la sûreté nationale; one, a medical student, lost the sight of an eye. At the beginning of October 1990 Amnesty International learned that **Boukary Dabo** had died in detention. Although few details were available, it appeared that his death was probably due to ill-treatment.

The other eight are reported to have been forcibly conscripted into the armed forces and to be held in military barracks at Pô, Dedougou and Koudougou; the government is maintaining that they are no longer prisoners, but Amnesty International continues to consider them to be prisoners of conscience.

Appeals, urging the immediate and unconditional release of all students held since May 1990, both those in detention and the eight forcibly conscripted into the armed forces, should be sent to:

Son Excellence Capitaine Blaise Compaoré
Président du Front populaire,
Chef de l'Etat et Chef du Gouvernement
Présidence du Faso
BP 7031
Ouagadougou
Burkina Faso

CHAD

1 Mahamat Abdoulaye

Mahamat Abdoulaye, aged 31 and married with two children, was the director of a teachers' school in N'Djamena, the Ecole normale supérieure, and a professor of chemistry in the Faculty of Science at the University of Chad. He was arrested on 2 April 1989 and has been detained in secret ever since. No information has been

divulged by the authorities about the reasons for his detention or his current whereabouts.

He is among more than 200 people from the Zaghawa ethnic group detained since early April 1989 following an alleged coup attempt which the authorities claim was organized by a number of Zaghawa leaders in N'Djamena. He has not been charged or given the opportunity to challenge the reasons or legal grounds for his arrest. According to information received by Amnesty International, he was not involved in any way in the coup attempt in April 1989. He appears to have been imprisoned simply because he is a prominent member of the Zaghawa community.

Appeals for his immediate and unconditional release should be sent to:

Son Excellence Hisssein Habré
Président de la République
La Présidence
N'Djamena
Chad (République du Tchad)

ETHIOPIA

A university student, **Ishetu Latu**, has been detained without charge or trial for over 10 years. He was studying at the National University of Addis Ababa when he was arrested in February 1980, together with hundreds of other members of the Oromo ethnic group or "nationality". They were interrogated about suspected links with the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) which is fighting government forces in Oromo-populated areas in eastern and western Ethiopia. In fact they are believed to have been detained because of their ethnic origin rather than for any actual evidence of OLF involvement. They were severely tortured and none was ever brought to court.

Most have now been released - for example, the former Minister of Law and Justice, Zegeye Asfaw, and Abiyu Galata, a former professor of law, were freed in September 1989 in a special amnesty. Ishetu Latu, however, remains detained in harsh conditions in the Central Investigation Centre (Maikelawi) in Addis Ababa. Amnesty International has adopted him as a prisoner of conscience.

Appeals for his immediate and unconditional release should be sent to:

His Excellency Mengistu Haile-Mariam
President of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
Office of the President
Addis Ababa
Ethiopia

KENYA

Edward Oyugi, recently appointed professor of educational

2 Edward Oyugi

psychology at Kenyatta University near Nairobi, was arrested on 12 July 1990 with three friends in a Nairobi bar. The arrests followed the detentions of two former government ministers and three human rights lawyers who had led calls for a multi-party system to be restored in Kenya. Edward Oyugi, a former prisoner of conscience detained without charge or trial between 1982 and 1984 for suspected opposition to the government, was brought to court

with the others, who included George Anyona, a former member of parliament last detained in 1982 when trying to form an opposition party, and Ngotho Kariuki, a former Dean of Commerce of the University of Nairobi, also a former prisoner of conscience and working as an accountant. They were charged with holding a meeting "with seditious intent" and two (not including Edward Oyugi) were charged with possessing "seditious" publications, such as Africa Confidential, a widely read political affairs newsletter published in London. Their bail applications and complaints of torture and ill-treatment were rejected.

According to its information, Amnesty International believes Edward Oyugi was not active in politics but was arrested because of his friendship with George Anyona and because former political prisoners are commonly suspected in Kenya of continued opposition. Amnesty International fears he could be convicted in an unfair trial and sentenced to up to seven years' imprisonment on the "sedition" charge. It has protested to the government at reports of his ill-treatment or even torture, and considers him to be a prisoner of conscience imprisoned for his non-violent opinions.

Professor Oyugi was educated at the University of Cologne in Germany, where he obtained his doctorate, and has taught at the University of Bayreuth. He has published many articles on educational psychology, a novel, papers on human rights and refugees, and has been a consultant for the World Council of Churches and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Appeals for his immediate and unconditional release should be sent to:

President Daniel arap Moi
Office of the President
P O Box 30510
Nairobi
Kenya

MALAWI

The 43-year-old Malawian poet, **Jack Mapanje**, was detained on 25 September 1987. Three years later he is still detained without charge or trial.

3 Jack Mapanje

Jack Mapanje was born in Kandango village in southern Malawi 44 years ago. He was educated at the University of Malawi and studied linguistics at the University of London before being appointed as head of the Department of Language and Literature at the University of Malawi. Although he is not believed to have been overtly politically active or to have been connected with any opposition group, his recent poetry had increasingly dealt with political themes. After his arrest police searched his office at the university and seized various manuscripts, including copies of his recently banned collection of poems, Of Chamelons and Gods. It is likely that the authorities were also concerned about his plans

to bring out a second volume of poems, provisionally entitled, Out of Bounds.

He has been detained without charge or trial, apparently under a presidential detention order, at Mikuyu Prison in Zomba. For almost two years he was not allowed visits from friends, nor was he allowed to see his wife and three children. More recently, however, it has been reported that his wife has been allowed to visit him at about two monthly intervals.

Blaise Machira, a former lecturer at the University of Malawi, was arrested in Zomba in April 1988. He had a distinguished academic career that included an M.A. from the University of Wisconsin, USA, and doctoral studies in Australia. He remains detained without charge or trial at Mikuyu Prison in Zomba.

Blaise Machira was diagnosed as suffering from schizophrenia about three years ago, and this was given as the reason for his dismissal from his job at the University of Malawi in December 1987. At the time of his arrest he was about to seek treatment outside Malawi. No reason has been given for his detention, but it is reported that his mental ill-health embarrassed political leaders. He was also outspoken in his criticism of the government and Life-President Banda in particular. It is reported that his health is continuing to deteriorate and he is held for long periods of time in chains.

Appeals for the immediate and unconditional release of these two prisoners of conscience should be addressed to:

His Excellency Life-President Ngwazi Dr H. Kamuzu Banda
Life President of the Republic of Malawi
Office of the President and Cabinet
Private Bag 388
Lilongwe 3
Malawi

MOROCCO

Mohamed Srifi was a student of Spanish literature at Rabat University at the time of his arrest in November 1974. He was held incommunicado at a secret detention centre in Casablanca where he was severely tortured until January 1976. His trial took place in January 1977 when he was sentenced to 30 years' imprisonment for belonging to the illegal organization Ila al-Amam (Forward) and for plotting against the internal security of the state.

The prosecution argued at the trial that in advocating the formation of a people's republic in Morocco, the defendant intended to bring about the violent overthrow of the monarchy. Evidence produced in court consisted of left-wing literature and duplicating equipment. There was apparently no evidence that he had ever advocated violence.

In 1979, he was given permission to marry his fiancée, Rabia Ftouh, who was arrested in 1975 and sentenced to five years' imprisonment at the same trial. They continued, however, to serve their sentences apart. During his time in prison, Mohamed Srifi has written a thesis on Spanish literature as well as writing poetry in Spanish.

Appeals for his immediate and unconditional release should be sent to:

His Majesty King Hassan II
Office of His Majesty the King
Palais Royal
RABAT
Morocco

RWANDA

Innocent Ndayambaje, aged 29, was a student of economics at the Butare campus of the National University of Rwanda at the time of his arrest in October 1986. He was held without charge or trial and Amnesty International only learned of his detention in 1988.

The Rwandese authorities did not acknowledge his detention despite numerous inquiries about his case by Amnesty International. In late 1989, Amnesty International learned that he was being charged with offences against the security of the state and that he would soon be brought to trial. It was not until March 1990 that he was tried on charges of contravening Rwanda's one-party constitution. The charges related to attempts to spread his political ideas by distributing tracts in the town of Butare.

Since Rwanda's current Constitution came into force in 1978 and indeed since its adoption in 1975 - two years after President Juvénal Habyarimana came to power in 1973 - the Mouvement révolutionnaire national pour le développement (MRND), National Revolutionary Movement for Development, has been the only party allowed by Rwanda's one-party constitution. Under the Constitution all Rwandese are obliged to be members of the MRND. However, at the time of Rwanda's independence anniversary in July 1990, the President said that the government was considering the introduction of multi-party democracy.

During his trial on 29 March 1990 before the Cour de Sûreté de l'Etat, State Security Court, Innocent Ndayambaje admitted to being the sole member of the Front national de résistance (FRONAR), National Resistance Front, whose aim was to end regional and ethnic injustices in Rwanda, but pleaded not guilty to the charge against him. He was sentenced to five years' imprisonment. Amnesty International is concerned that he may not have had a fair trial as both prior to and during the trial, Innocent Ndayambaje had no access to legal counsel. There is no right of appeal against convictions and sentences handed down by the State Security Court, but they can be challenged only on points of law (by a pourvoi en cassation). The fact that all the court's judicial officials,

including two soldiers, even in cases not involving members of the armed forces, are appointed by Presidential decree, also calls into question the independence of the court.

He is believed to be still held at Kigali central prison, where he has been detained since his arrest. Amnesty International has adopted him as a prisoner of conscience because he is imprisoned for exercising his rights to freedom of expression and association.

The organization is urging the Rwandese authorities to order his unconditional and immediate release.

Appeals for his immediate and unconditional release should be sent to:

Son Excellence Monsieur le Général-Major Habyarimana Juvénal
Président de la République
Présidence de la République
BP 15
Kigali
Rwanda (République Rwandaise)

SUDAN

Dr Ushari Ahmed Mahmoud, a lecturer in languages at the University of Khartoum and director of an Arab teaching institute, was arrested

4 Dr Ushari Ahmed Mahmoud

on 8 July 1989. He is also a human rights activist. In October 1987, when the government of former prime minister Sadiq al-Mahdi was in power, he was briefly detained following the publication of a pamphlet he had written which criticized the authorities in connection with a massacre carried out by members of the Rizeigat ethnic group in Ad-Daien in Darfur region in March 1987. Hundreds of members of the Dinka ethnic group died in the massacre. He was released after being interrogated for several hours. However, in

December 1987 he was detained for two weeks and again questioned about the publication of the pamphlet on the Ad-Daien massacre.

In March 1990 he received a visit at Khartoum's Kober Prison, where he had been held since his arrest, by a government minister who threatened him with indefinite detention without trial if he did not retract in writing his report on the Ad-Daien killings. He refused to do so and 10 days later was moved, evidently as a punishment, to Shalla Prison in Sudan's western Darfur province, where prison conditions are particularly harsh.

Dr Khalid al-Kid, a writer and a lecturer in politics at Omdurman Ahlia University, was arrested on 17 July 1989. He is 48 years old and has studied outside Sudan on two occasions, firstly in Northern Ireland in the late 1970s, when he studied Anglo-Irish literature, and later at the University of Reading in the United Kingdom, where he obtained a doctorate in political science in 1987.

He is a member of the Sudanese Organization for Human Rights and the Union of Sudanese Writers and is also reported to be a member of the Sudan Communist Party. He was a regular contributor to al-Maidan and al-Khartoum newspapers. After initially being held at Kober prison, he was transferred to Shalla Prison, where he is still held without charge or trial.

Dr Bashir Omar Fadlalla, a lecturer at the Faculty of Economics at the University of Khartoum, was arrested on 17 August 1989. He is a member of the Umma Party and held the posts of Minister of Finance, Minister of Energy and Minister of Culture and Information in previous governments. He was released uncharged on 10 February 1990, but three months later, in May 1990, he was among a group of more than 20 supporters of the National Democratic Forum (a coalition of 11 opposition parties and 51 trades unions and professions associations opposed to the military government) who were arrested. Although the government claimed that it had evidence of plans to overthrow it by force, neither Dr Bashir Omar Fadlalla nor any of those arrested with him have been charged or brought to trial, and he seems once again to be a prisoner of conscience.

5 Dr Khalid al-Kid

Appeals for the release of these three prisoners of conscience should be sent to:

His Excellency Lieutenant General
Omar Hassan al-Bashir
Head of State, Minister of Defence
and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces
People's Palace
PO Box 281
Khartoum
Sudan

SWAZILAND

Twelve people in Swaziland charged with treason on account of their alleged involvement with a political party, the People's United Democratic Movement (PUDEMO), went on trial in late September 1990.

Swaziland's laws prohibit all political party activities. The accused are alleged to have conspired to form a political party, PUDEMO, and to have planned to use violent means to overthrow the government. Among them are **Ray Russon**, a sociology lecturer at

the University of Swaziland, and **Dominic Mngomezulu**, a former law lecturer at the same university.

6 Dominic Mngomezulu (third from left) and Ray Russon (fifth from left) with other defendants

Ray Russon is in his late 20s and comes from Vuvulane district in Swaziland. He was an outstanding student and the first from his high school to go on to study at the University of Swaziland, where he was very active in student affairs. He was Vice-Chair of the Students Representative Council from 1982 to 1983. At the same time he excelled at his studies and obtained a BA in Politics and Sociology. While working subsequently for the Ministry of Education he was active in forming a civil servants union encompassing employees of all ministries and parastatal companies. In 1988 he gained a further degree in Australia, and was then appointed a sociology lecturer at the University of Swaziland. Ray Russon is a married man with children.

Dominic Mngomezulu is about 31 years old. He studied law at the University of Swaziland in the early 1980s and was a student activist and president of the Swaziland National Union of Students. Following a period of student unrest in 1984, 20 students, including Dominic Mngomezulu and another defendant in the forthcoming treason trial, were expelled. He completed his law degree in Lesotho. He returned in 1986 to take up a post as graduate assistant in law at the university but his contract was terminated

in 1988, apparently as a result of his efforts to organize non-academic staff into a union. He has latterly been working as an articulated clerk.

Eleven of the accused in this trial, including Ray Russon and Dominic Mngomezulu, were arrested during June 1990. On 23 June they were charged in the High Court with high treason and with contravening the King's Proclamation of 1973 and the Sedition and Subversive Activities Act (No. 46 of 1938), as amended by Decree No. 4 of 1987. The offence of treason can be punishable by death. The trial was scheduled to commence on 24 September but was postponed until 1 October at the request of the prosecution which served a new indictment on the accused shortly prior to the opening date, adding new charges, and including a twelfth defendant.

On 4 October, three of the 12 defendants were acquitted, while the trial of the remaining nine, including Ray Russon and Dominic Mngomezulu, was continuing. Following the acquittals, three young prosecution witnesses, who had repudiated statements made earlier to the police on the grounds that they were made as a result of coercion, and consequently refused to testify for the prosecution, were arrested and faced possible perjury charges.

Amnesty International believes that all the defendants at the continuing trial are prisoners of conscience, imprisoned on account of the non-violent expression of their political views. Appeals for the unconditional release of Ray Russon and Dominic Mngomezulu should be sent to:

The Right Hon. Obed Dlamini
Acting Prime Minister
Office of the Prime Minister
PO Box 395
Mbabane
Swaziland

TUNISIA

Professor Moncef Ben Salem, former head of the mathematics department at the University of Sfax, was sentenced to three years' imprisonment on 24 May 1990 for defamation of public order and disseminating false information with the aim of disturbing public security. The charges relate to an interview Professor Ben Salem had given to an Algerian Islamic newspaper which criticized the Tunisian Government.

Ben Salem had previously been detained as one of a group of people known as the "security group" who were arrested after President Ben Ali came to power on 7 November 1987, who were accused of plotting the violent overthrow of former President Bourguiba. He suffered severe torture and ill-treatment while being held incommunicado without charge until his release without charge or trial on 4 May 1989.

Like most members of the "security group" previously working in public sector posts, Ben Salem was not able to return to his post as head of the Mathematics department of Sfax University after his release. Since then and until his new arrest and current detention, he has been harassed by the secret security police and been denied a passport to attend academic conferences or seek medical treatment abroad.

Amnesty International considers Ben Salem to be a prisoner of conscience, convicted solely for his non-violent political beliefs, and is calling for his immediate and unconditional release.

Appeals for his release should be sent to:

Son Excellence Président Zine el Abidine Ben Ali
Président de la République
Palais Présidentiel
Tunis/Carthage
Tunisie

ZAIRE

Digekisa Piluka, a Roman Catholic religious brother studying law at Lubumbashi University campus, which is situated outside Lubumbashi, the capital of southeastern Zaire's Shaba region, was arrested on 30 May 1990. He is the leader of a student organization known as Syndicat national solidarité (SNS), Solidarity National Syndicate. He was reportedly in hiding before his arrest because the authorities suspected him of leading student demonstrations in Lubumbashi in early May against the government. From his hide-out he reportedly wrote a letter to a foreign diplomat seeking asylum. The letter was intercepted by members of the security forces and he was then arrested. He was first detained at Kasapa prison in Lubumbashi and later transferred to Makala prison in Kinshasa. He was not known by September 1990 to have been charged with any offence. His arrest seems to be related to the government's attempts to stop any publicity about what happened during an attack on students at Lubumbashi University campus in early May, for at least one other potential witness, a Justice and Peace lawyer, is also known to have been detained at the same time. It seems the authorities detained Digekisa Piluka to stop him from testifying about the attack and Amnesty International has concluded that he is a prisoner of conscience.

7 Digevisa Piluka

Digevisa Piluka's arrest took place after a group of people dressed in civilian clothes and hoods attacked students at Lubumbashi University campus on the night of 11 May 1990. Sources in Lubumbashi claimed that the attackers included members of the Zairian security forces who reportedly killed at least 12 students, after the electricity supply to the campus was cut by the authorities. The government denied that members of the security forces were involved. It said that only one student died as a result of the incident, and that this death was caused by other students.

The attackers reportedly used bayonets and other sharp weapons to kill and maim their victims, apparently in order to avenge the beating of three students accused by their colleagues of being government informers.

A 12-person parliamentary inquiry team was sent to Lubumbashi several weeks after the attack. The inquiry found that regional government and security officials in Lubumbashi were involved in preparing and facilitating the night-time raid on Lubumbashi University campus. The inquiry was unable to reach a firm conclusion about the role played by the security forces in the killings. However, according to the inquiry's report, government and security officials had ordered the electricity supply to the university campus to be cut. Members of the security forces were surrounding the campus before, during and after the attack but they refused to intervene when the students were attacked. The inquiry found that at least one senior member of the security services in Lubumbashi had been involved in preparing the attack, but was unable to establish who the assailants had been.

The governor of Shaba region and at least 10 other government and security officials were arrested after the inquiry had accused them of both complicity and failing to prevent the night-time raid on the university campus. The government said that those arrested would soon be brought to trial.

Appeals for the release of Digeekisa Piluka to be sent to:

Son Excellence le Maréchal
Mobutu Sese Seko
Président de la République
Présidence de la République
Kinshasa-Ngaliema
République du Zaïre