

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 365/92 (AFR 17/18/92, 23 November 1992) -
Torture/Death in detention

CAMEROON: Ghandi CHE NGWA
 and new name: Joseph NGWA

Ghandi Che Ngwa died at the Military Hospital, Bamenda on 18 November 1992 after being suspended from an iron bar and severely beaten by the security police. Other detainees transferred to the Military Hospital in Bamenda at about the same time as Ghandi Che Ngwa had also been tortured.

Others who were tortured included Joseph Ngwa, a 17-year-old youth detained on 8 November 1992, who was beaten by gendarmes at the time of his arrest. Officers of the Brigade Mixte Mobile, the security police, later suspended him from a bar by his arms and legs and beat him. An officer was reported to have subsequently jumped on his stomach and kicked him while he was lying on the ground. He received no medical treatment at the Military Hospital and required major surgery after being transferred to a civilian hospital on 20 November 1992.

On 22 November 1992 Dr Solomon Nfor Gwei, head of the government-appointed National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms (Comité national des droits de l'homme et des libertés), visited some 200 detainees arrested in Bamenda following the imposition of a state of emergency in North-West Province on 27 October 1992. He found that many had been severely beaten.

Following the lifting of the State of Emergency on 30 December 1992, most of those detained under the state of emergency are believed to have been released (see follow-up to Extra 90/92, AFR 17/01/93 of 10 February 1993).

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:

- repeating your concern about the death of Ghandi Che Ngwa on 18 November 1992 as a result of injuries sustained during torture and expressing concern also about the torture of Joseph Ngwa and his subsequent medical neglect at the Military Hospital;
- calling for an independent, judicial and open investigation into reports of widespread torture and ill-treatment of State of Emergency detainees in North-West Province and in other parts of the country, citing the findings of the National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms (Comité national des droits de l'homme et des libertés);
- urging that those responsible for the death of Ghandi Che Ngwa and the torture and ill-treatment of Joseph Ngwa and other detainees in North-West Province be brought to justice.

APPEALS TO:

1) President:
Son Excellence Monsieur Paul Biya
Président de la République

Palais de l'Unité
Yaoundé, Cameroon

Telegrams: President Biya, Yaounde, Cameroon
Faxes: + 237 221699
Telexes: 8207 PRESID KN (Secretariat général)
8595 PRESID B KN (Cabinet civil)

Salutation: Monsieur le Président de la République / Dear President

2) Prime Minister:

Mr Simon Achidi Achu

Prime Minister

Prime Minister's Office

Immeuble Etoile

Yaoundé, Cameroon

Telegrams: Prime Minister Achu, Yaounde, Cameroon
Faxes: + 237 235765
Telexes: 8282 KN

Salutation: Dear Prime Minister / Monsieur le Premier Ministre

3) Minister of Internal Affairs:

M. Gilbert Andzé Tsoungui

Ministre de l'Administration territoriale

Ministère de l'Administration territoriale

1000 Yaoundé 4, Cameroon

Telegrams: Ministre de l'Administration territoriale Tsoungui, Yaounde, Cameroon

Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Dear Minister

4) Mr Luc-René Bell

Governor of North-West Province

Governor's Office

5000 Bamenda, Cameroon

Telegrams: North-West Province Governor Ngolle, Bamenda, Cameroon

Salutation: Monsieur le Gouverneur / Dear Governor

COPIES OF SOME OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Cameroon Post, BP 1981, Yaoundé, Cameroon

Postwatch, PO Box 235, Bamenda, Cameroon

Our People, BP 244, Bamenda, Cameroon

Peuple d'Afrique, BP 1287, Yaoundé, Cameroon

L'Expression, BP 5646, Douala, Cameroon

La Gazette, BP 5485, Douala, Cameroon

Dikalo, BP 12656, Douala, Cameroon

Challenge Nouveau, BP 13088, Douala, Cameroon

and to diplomatic representatives of Cameroon accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 24 March 1993.