

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 406/91 (AFR 17/11/91, 21 November 1991) -
Torture/Legal concern

CAMEROON: Senfo Tonkam, student leader

Senfo Tonkam, who was arrested by security forces on 18 November 1991, was released on 21 April 1992 after serving a five-month prison sentence for carrying false identity papers (*faux et usage de faux*). Amnesty International considered him to be a prisoner of conscience, detained because of his non-violent opposition to the government.

Senfo Tonkam was arrested in Douala after attending a meeting organized by a coordinating committee of Cameroon opposition parties, at which he was representing a student organization. He was transferred to Nkondengui prison, Yaoundé, where conditions are known to be harsh and where he was reportedly held in chains. He was charged with carrying false identity papers and appeared in court on a number of occasions before his trial on 20 March 1992, when he was sentenced to five months' imprisonment. He was released on 21 April 1992 after serving his sentence.

In July 1991 he had received a suspended six-month prison sentence after being convicted of organizing an unauthorized meeting. An appeal against this sentence by the state prosecutors is due to be heard in June 1992.

No further action is required at this stage. Thank you to all those who sent appeals on behalf of Senfo Tonkam.