

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AFR 24/02/98

27 January 1998

Further information on 24/98 (AFR 24/01/98, 23 January 1998) - Fear of torture/possible prisoners of conscience

EQUATORIAL GUINEA Víctor Buyaban, teacher - and his wife (name unknown)
Father Eduardo Losoa, Roman Catholic priest
Augustín Iriri (not Carmelo Iriri as stated in original UA)
Juan Loeri, director of studies of the School of Agriculture
Marcelo Lohoso, parliamentarian
Cristino Meda Seriche
Aurelio Losoa, age 78
Florencio Sicoco
Anastasio Copoboru
"Ebulabate" (no other name known)
New names Silvestre Orichi, age 59
Remigio Mete;
Atanasio Bitá Rope;
Bienvenido Yamba ;
Epifanio Moaba
Ignacio Bitá
Lucia Quenero (wife of Ignacio Bitá)
Arcadio Boneke
Enrique Boneke Mitelepo, age 79
And others

Arrests continue of people of the Bubi ethnic group, suspected of belonging or supporting the *Movimiento para la Autodeterminación de la Isla de Bioko* (MAIB), Movement for the self-determination of Bioko Island, a Bubi political party. Scores of people are said to have been arrested all over Bioko Island. Amnesty International has received further names of people arrested, mainly in Rebola, which is said to house the headquarters of the MAIB.

Silvestre Orichi is thought to be a leading member of the MAIB. He has been detained on numerous occasions before, most recently from August to December 1997.

About 60 people, members of *La Unión*, an agricultural cooperative, are also believed to have been arrested.

A Nigerian, who the authorities claim played a leading role in the 21 January attacks on military barracks in Luba, Moka and Bahó Grande, was arrested on 23 January. His identity has not been disclosed, nor have the identities or whereabouts of two other captured men allegedly involved in the attack. The security forces have raided the houses of Nigerians living in Malabo, beating them and stealing some of their possessions.

Many of the detainees appear to be prisoners of conscience. Some are relatives of prominent Bubi intellectuals and politicians known for their peaceful views about autonomy for Bioko Island. Others are being arrested solely on account of their ethnic origin and their suspected support for the MAIB. At this stage it is difficult to determine the extent of the arrests as communication is poor to towns other than Malabo. There are reports that repression is

particularly severe in Riaba, about 65 kms southeast of Malabo, where the authorities believe the alleged men involved in the attack are hiding.

On 23 January Father Eduardo Losoa was released from police cells, but has been placed under house arrest.

Correction: Please note that Rebola is in the east and Luba in the southwest of Bioko Island.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Please continue to send appeals as per UA 24/98.

APPEALS TO:

In addition to the authorities recommended in UA 24/98, please send copies of your letters to:

Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs
Sr. Don Miguel Oyono Ndong Mifunu
Vice Primer Ministro y Ministro de Asuntos Exteriores
Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores
Malabo
Guinea Ecuatorial
Faxes: +240 9 2320

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 10 March 1998.