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EXTRA 40/99

Fear of torture / Prisoner of conscience

EQUATORIAL GUINEA	Teótimo Mbo Edó	]	
	Fidel Abesó	]	
	Marcos Esimi	]	Members of opposition party
	Felix Ngomo	]	Unión Popular (UP), Popular
	Juan Miquibi	]	Union
	Francisco Nguema	]	
	Gaspar Nculu	]	
	Luis Mba Bayeme	]	
	Juan Ebuna	]	Members of opposition party
	Manuel Nzo	]	Convergencia para la Democracia
	Zacharías Esimi	]	Social (CPDS), Convergence for
	Santiago Ndong	]	Social Democracy

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The above-named are being held in incommunicado detention since being arrested on 7 March 1999 in Nsok Nsomo, a town in eastern Equatorial Guinea. Amnesty International fears for their safety since torture and ill-treatment in detention is routine in the country.

All were acting as election monitors for their respective political parties, the *Unión Popular* (UP), Popular Union and the *Convergencia para la Democracia Social* (CPDS), Convergence for Social Democracy during legislative elections that day, which have now concluded.

The election process was deeply flawed with people in some cases being beaten if they refused to vote for the ruling *Partido Democrático de Guinea Ecuatorial* (PDGE), Equatorial Guinea Democratic Party. In addition, some opposition supporters were prevented from voting at all while some supporters of the ruling party were able to vote twice. Other opposition party election monitors were also expelled from polling stations by force.

In the run-up to the elections too, at least 10 opposition candidates, including a number of CPDS party leaders, were briefly detained and there was much obstruction to their pre-election campaigning activities with candidates being prevented from attending electoral rallies by being either expelled from towns or confined to their villages.

**BACKGROUND**

The latest elections were the second legislative elections to be held in the country since 1992 when a multi-party political system was introduced.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in Spanish or your own language:**

- asking for the immediate release of all of the above named;
- seeking assurances that they are not being tortured or ill-treated and that they are allowed to see their families, a lawyer and a doctor;
- stating that you consider them to be prisoners of conscience detained solely for their peaceful political activities.

**APPEALS TO:**

President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo  
Presidente de la República  
Gabinete del Presidente de la República  
Malabo, Equatorial Guinea

**Telegrams: Presidente Obiang, Malabo, Equatorial Guinea**

**Telexes: 5405 GBNOM 5405 EG**

**Faxes:** + 240 9 3313

**Salutation:** Excelencia / Your Excellency

Prime Minister Serafín Seriche Dougan

Primer Ministro

Gabinete del Primer Ministro

Malabo, Equatorial Guinea

**Telegrams:** Primer Ministro Seriche Dougan, Malabo, Equatorial Guinea

**Telexes:** 5405 GBNOM 5405 EG

**Salutation:** Sr. Don / Dear Prime Minister

Secretary of State for Security, Colonel Manuel Nguema Mba

Secretario de Estado para la Seguridad Nacional

Malabo, Equatorial Guinea

**Telegrams:** Colonel Manuel Nguema Mba, Malabo, Equatorial Guinea

**Telexes:** 5405 GBNOM 5405 EG

**Salutation:** Sr. Don/Dear Secretary of State

**COPIES TO:**

Vice-Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs

Miguel Oyono Ndong Mifumu

Vice-Primer Ministro y Ministro de Asuntos Exteriores

Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores, Equatorial Guinea

and to diplomatic representatives of Equatorial Guinea accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 12 April 1999.