

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on 111/92 (AFR 24/06/92, 3 April 1992) - Fear of unfair trial

Equatorial Guinea: Plácido Mikó Abogo

Amnesty International has received further information about the case of Plácido Mikó Abogo, who remains in detention awaiting trial. According to recent reports, the two lawyers chosen by Plácido Mikó Abogo's family to defend him were denied access to him. Furthermore, the court which is to try him turned down the lawyers' application for *habeas corpus* on behalf of Plácido Mikó Abogo and refused to allow the lawyers to defend him.

Plácido Mikó Abogo was expected to be tried on 3 April but his trial did not take place. No date for the trial has been given but reports suggest the it will take place soon.

Amnesty International remains concerned that Plácido Mikó Abogo is being denied the right to independent defence of his choice and that he will not be given a fair trial.

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

- expressing concern at reports that Plácido Mikó Abogo is about to be brought to trial and that it appears he is being tried for exercising his right to freedom of expression as guaranteed by Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and Article 13(b) of the newly amended Equatorial Guinean Constitution;

- expressing concern at reports that Plácido Mikó Abogo was severely beaten at the time of his arrest and in detention and has been ill as a result;

- expressing concern at reports that Plácido Mikó Abogo has not yet had access to defence council and that the court refused to allow the lawyers chosen by his family to defend him;

- urging the authorities to ensure that Plácido Mikó Abogo is defended by lawyers of his choice and that he is given adequate time and facilities to prepare his defence;

- urging the authorities to ensure that his trial conforms to international standards of fairness and in particular that no statements made under torture are presented in court as evidence against him;

- urging that, if, as Amnesty International believes, he is imprisoned for exercising his right to freedom of expression, he should be released immediately.

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APPEALS TO:

1) President:

Su Excelencia

Coronel General Teodoro Obiang Nguema

Presidente de la República

Gabinete del Presidente de la República

Malabo

República de Guinea Ecuatorial

Telegrams: Presidente Obiang Nguema, Malabo, República de Guinea Ecuatorial

Salutation: Su Excelencia / Your Excellency

2) Minister of Justice and Religion:

Su Excelencia

Mariano Nsué Nguema

Ministro de Justicia y Culto

Ministerio de Justicia y Culto

Malabo

República de Guinea Ecuatorial

Telegrams: Ministro de Justicia y Culto Nsué Nguema, Malabo, República de Guinea Ecuatorial

Telexes: 5405 GBNOM 5405 EG

Salutation: Su Excelencia / Your Excellency

3) Minister of Foreign Affairs:

Su Excelencia Benjamín Mba Ekua Mikó

Ministro de Asuntos Exteriores

Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores

Malabo

República de Guinea Ecuatorial

Telegrams: Ministro de Asuntos Exteriores Mba Ekua, Malabo, República de Guinea Ecuatorial

Telexes: 5405 GBNOM 5405 EG

Salutation: Su Excelencia / Your Excellency

COPIES TO: diplomatic representatives of Equatorial Guinea in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,

or your section, if sending appeals after 21 May 1992.