

**EXTERNAL (for general distribution)**

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**UA 199/92 Arrest of possible prisoner of conscience/  
Fear of ill-treatment**

**15 June 1992**

**EQUATORIAL GUINEA: Pilar Mañana (female)**

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Amnesty International has received reports that Pilar Mañana was arrested by two plain-clothes police officers (security police) in the afternoon of 10 June 1992 in the bar she owns in Malabo, for being in possession of an issue of La Verdad, the paper of the opposition party Convergencia para la Democracia Social (CPDS), Convergence for Social Democracy. She was arrested for exercising her right to freedom of expression and possibly also for her family relationship with a political activist, a former prisoner of conscience who was recently released from prison. She is reported to be detained at a police station.

Pilar Mañana is the aunt of José Luis Nvumba Mañana who was imprisoned in early May 1992 after being charged with insulting the President and the authorities. He and four others were released on 3 June, following a Presidential pardon. Neither he nor the four people charged with him had been tried.

The issue of La Verdad had been left behind by another woman who had earlier been in the bar reading the paper. Reports suggest that a customer had called the police. Pilar Mañana is not known to be a member of any political party but she is known to be a government opponent and her bar is frequented by members of the opposition.

Amnesty International is concerned that Pilar Mañana was arrested solely on account of her apparent opposition to the government and her friendship and family ties with members of opposition parties. The organization is also concerned that Pilar Mañana may be tortured or ill-treated while in custody as political prisoners are routinely subjected to torture.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Until late 1991 Equatorial Guinea was officially a one-party state: the only permitted political party was the Partido Democrático de Guinea Ecuatorial (PDGE), Democratic Party of Equatorial Guinea, led by President Obiang Nguema. Following pressure from within as well as outside the country, a revised constitution was approved in November 1991 introducing a multi-party political system and providing for freedom of expression and association. A law permitting political parties was passed in late December 1991. But owing to the stringent requirements for official recognition, which include a payment fee equivalent of approximately US\$165,000 (two thousand times the average yearly salary) so far only two parties have been able to register.

Equatorial Guinea became a party to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights in 1986 and to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in 1987.

**RECOMMENDED ACTIONS: Telegrams/telexes/airmail letters:**

- expressing concerned that Pilar Mañana is reported to have been arrested on 10 June 1992, apparently solely for exercising her right to free expression of her political views as guaranteed by Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and Article 13 (b) of the Equatorial Guinea Constitution approved in November 1991, and for her friendship and family ties with members of opposition parties;

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- expressing concern that, as no steps have yet been taken to end the practice of torture in Equatorial Guinea, she is a risk of being tortured or ill-treated in custody, and requesting assurances that she is being treated humanely in custody and allowed regular visits by relations;

- urging that if, as Amnesty International believes, she was arrested for exercising her right to freedom of expression, she should be released immediately and unconditionally.

**APPEALS TO:**

1) President:

Su Excelencia  
General de Brigada Teodoro Obiang Nguema  
Presidente de la República  
Gabinete del Presidente de la República  
Malabo  
República de Guinea Ecuatorial

**Salutation: Su Excelencia/  
Your Excellency**

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

2) Minister of Justice and Religion:

Su Excelencia  
Mariano Nsúé Nguema  
Ministro de Justicia y Culto  
Ministerio de Justicia y Culto  
Malabo  
República de Guinea Ecuatorial

**Salutation: Su Exelencia/  
Your Excellency**

**Telegrams: Ministro de Justicia Nsúé Nguema Malabo, República de Guinea Ecuatorial**

**Telexes: 5405 GBNOM 5405 EG**

3) Minister of Foreign Affairs:

Su Excelencia  
Benjamín Mbá Ekua Mikó  
Ministro de Asuntos Exteriores  
Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores  
Malabo  
República de Guinea Ecuatorial

**Salutation: Su Exelencia/  
Your Excellency**

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

**Telexes: 5405 GBNOM 5405 EG**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS 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 27 July 1992.