

28 August 1996

Further information on UA 192/96 (AFR 30/03/96, 1 August 1996) and follow-ups (AFR 30/04/96, 15 August; AFR 30/05/96, 16 August; AFR 30/06/96, 22 August 1996) - Fear of refoulement / ill-treatment / fear for safety / Health concern

GUINEA-BISSAU / SPAIN Albert Mukesha Batwaro, Rwandese
 Souleymane Diallo)
 Sulaymane Souare) from
 Alpha Makmadou Barry) Guinea-Conakry
 Abubacar Sall)
 and other African nationals

On 23 August 1996 Albert Mukesha Batwaro, Rwandese, and the 45 other people deported to Guinea-Bissau from Spain in June 1996, ended their hunger-strike. They did this after joining in a demonstration organized by the *Liga Guineense dos Direitos Humanos*, Guinea-Bissau Human Rights League, to protest at the way they were treated in Spain and in Guinea-Bissau. However, the 46 men continue to sleep on the side of the road outside the *Segunda Esquadra* prison in order to draw attention to their plight. Although they are being allowed a degree of freedom of movement, they effectively remain in the custody of the police.

One of the deportees, a Liberian, has developed mental problems, another has kidney problems and some are suffering from malaria.

Amnesty International remains concerned about the health and safety of the 46 African nationals and is calling on all relevant authorities to address their legitimate grievances. They did not have adequate opportunity to present their claims for asylum in Spain before being forcibly removed to Guinea-Bissau. Neither the four who were effectively forced to return to Guinea-Conakry (see AFR 30/04/96, 15 August) nor any of the other 46 were given the opportunity to claim asylum in Guinea-Bissau.

Amnesty International fears that some of these people may be at risk of serious human rights violations if they are returned to their own countries. Guinea-Bissau is bound by international treaties to ensure that they are not repatriated either directly or indirectly to their own countries, without any opportunity to seek asylum and to have these claims fairly reviewed.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please continue urgent appeals to the Guinea-Bissau and Spanish authorities as outlined in the update of 15 August 1996 (AFR 30/04/96). Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 5 October 1996.