

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 330/90 (AFR 32/14/90, 10 August, and follow-ups AFR 32/19/90, 7 September, AFR 32/22/90, 19 September, and AFR 32/23/90, 20 September 1990) - Fear of Torture/Legal Concern

KENYA: Joe Omwaka Ager, tour operator
Mary Ager, his wife, a nurse

The charge against Joe and Mary Ager of possessing a seditious publication, Africa Confidential, has now been withdrawn. They had been arrested in July and September 1990 respectively but released on bail.

The same charge is still pending against at least two other people in Kenya accused of possessing an issue of Africa Confidential which was critical of the government. Amnesty International has appealed to the Kenyan authorities to drop the charges.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Airmail letters:

- welcoming the withdrawal of charges against Joe and Mary Ager, which had meant they were in danger of being imprisoned as prisoners of conscience;
- urging that no-one else should be charged or prosecuted for mere possession of an issue of Africa Confidential or any other publication containing non-violent criticism of the government, for which he or she could be imprisoned;
- requesting a review of the sedition law to remove the threat of imprisonment for people holding views or possessing publications which, though critical of the government, do not advocate violence.

APPEALS TO:

Mr Matthew Muli
Attorney General
Office of the Attorney General
PO Box 40112
Nairobi, Kenya

COPIES TO:

Mr Justice Alan Hancox
Chief Justice
Law Courts
PO Box 30041
Nairobi, Kenya

Mr Nahashon Kanyi
Minister of Information
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
Jogoo House
PO Box 30025
Nairobi, Kenya

Mr Wilson Ndolo Ayah
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
P O Box 30551
Nairobi, Kenya

Mr Fred Ojiambo
Chairman, Law Society of Kenya
P O Box 72219
Nairobi, Kenya

and to diplomatic representatives of Kenya in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. After this last round of appeals, no further action will be required. Thank you to all who sent appeals.