

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AFR 32/05/97

7 January 1997

Further information on EXTRA 191/96 (AFR 32/16/96, 9 December 1996) and follow-up (AFR 32/17/96, 16 December) - Health Concern / Prisoners of Conscience

KENYAKoigi wa WAMWERE, aged 47, human rights activist, former political prisoner, former member of parliament, journalist
Charles Kuria WAMWERE, former political prisoner
G.G. Njuguna NGENGI, councillor for Molo, farmer

Amnesty International is increasingly concerned about the health of prisoner of conscience G G Njuguna Ngengi. His physical condition has deteriorated and he is suffering from severe chest pains. Following a court order he is due to be transferred today (7 January) to Kenyatta Hospital, Nairobi, where he will have tests and treatment for a suspected heart condition.

G G Njuguna Ngengi suffers from non-insulin dependent diabetes and hypertension and has been admitted to hospital a significant number of times since his detention in 1993. In the past he and his co-defendants have been heavily guarded whilst in hospital and have been unable to be examined in private. Under Kenyan law, doctors have the right to examine their patients in the presence, but not the hearing, of prison warders. Amnesty International is also concerned that he will be chained to his bed.

Amnesty International remains concerned that neither G G Njuguna Ngengi nor fellow prisoner of conscience Charles Kuria Wamwere have been receiving their medically prescribed diets.

The hearing for their bail application is now due to take place on 13 January.

Koigi wa Wamwere, released on bail on the grounds of ill-health on 16 December 1996, is now in Norway where he is receiving medical treatment.

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

- urging that G G Njuguna Ngengi and Charles Kuria Wamwere be released immediately and unconditionally as prisoners of conscience;
- urging that whilst in hospital G G Njuguna Ngengi not be chained to the bed and that he receives appropriate medical treatment in circumstances free from intimidation;
- urging that as a matter of priority their medically prescribed diets be provided.

APPEALS TO:

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Salutation: Your Excellency

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Salutation: Dear Attorney General

Chief Justice Abdul Majid Cockar

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Faxes: +254 2 333449 (c/o Registrar's Office)

Salutation: Dear Chief Justice

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and to diplomatic representatives of Kenya accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 7 February 1997.