

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AFR 32/10/93

Distr: UA/SC

6 April 1993

Further information on UA 58/93 (AFR 32/07/93, 4 March 1993) - Fear for safety

KENYA:Wangari Maathai (female) - environmentalist, opposition activist

Professor Wangari Maathai is no longer in hiding and no longer has serious fears for her safety. She presented herself in court in mid-March and was informed that there was no charge pending against her. The judge granted bail in advance in case she was arrested for any bailable charge. She has not been arrested or charged with any offence, and the police have reportedly denied that they are looking for her.

However, a public meeting and a subsequent prayer-meeting which she had called about the issue of the "clashes victims" - people killed in ethnic disturbances in Rift Valley Province in February 1993 - were banned by the police. She is evidently also barred from visiting the clash areas. She is said to be taking her own precautions for her safety.

John Makanga, who was also campaigning on behalf of the clashes victims, is still facing a possible charge of "distributing seditious publications", namely a leaflet written by Professor Wangari Maathai. He is free on bail and is now suing the government for the injuries he received when being arrested on 25 February 1993 (see UA 54/93, AFR 32/06/93, 2 March 1993 and follow-up of 15 March).

No further action is required from the Urgent Action Network. Thank you to all those who sent appeals on behalf of Wangari Maathai.