

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 206/91 (AFR 32/22/91, 13 June 1991) - Medical Concern

KENYA: Raila Odinga, businessman and former academic

Raila Odinga, Kenya's only remaining untried political detainee, was released by President Daniel arap Moi on 21 July 1991. No reasons have been given for his release, which follows the release on 12 April and 9 June 1991 respectively of fellow-detainees Charles Rubia and Kenneth Matiba, both on medical grounds.

Raila Odinga is the son of Oginga Odinga, former Vice-President of Kenya (1964-1966) and leader of a new opposition party, the National Democratic party (NDP), which the Kenyan Government has refused to register. Raila Odinga has spent most of the past six years in detention without trial in an apparent attempt by the government to stop his father's political activities.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Express and airmail letters:

- welcoming the release from detention of Raila Odinga, a prisoner of conscience;
- expressing appreciation that Kenya no longer has any administrative detainees and requesting that the government reviews the Public Security Regulations to ensure that in future no-one is detained for his or her non-violent opinions;
- appealing for an independent inquiry into conditions under which political prisoners are held, in view of the serious and life-threatening medical complaints suffered in the past few weeks by recently-released former prisoners of conscience Raila Odinga, Kenneth Matiba, Charles Rubia and Gitobu Imanyara, as a result of harsh conditions of imprisonment and denial of adequate medical treatment or regular family access.

APPEALS TO:

President Daniel arap Moi
President of the Republic of Kenya
Office of the President
P O Box 30510
Nairobi, Kenya

COPIES TO:

Mr Amos Wako
Attorney General
Office of the Attorney General
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Nairobi, Kenya

Mr James Mareka
Commissioner of Prisons
Kenya Prison Service HQ
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Nairobi, Kenya

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Mr Mwai Kibaki
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Ministry of Health
PO Box 30016
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Mr Paul Muite
Chairman, Law Society of Kenya
PO Box 72219
Nairobi, Kenya

and to diplomatic representatives of Kenya in your country

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 5 August 1991.