

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AFR 32/63/97

EXTRA 160/97

Fear of Torture while being Illegally
Detained

26 November 1997

KENYA Patrick Wangamati, businessman, aged over 60

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of Patrick Wangamati, a returnee refugee, who is held in incommunicado detention without charge since being detained by police on arrival at Nairobi airport on 6 October 1997. The legal limit for detention without charge is 24 hours or 14 days for capital crimes.

Patrick Wangamati had returned to Kenya from Ghana where he had been granted refugee status. A businessman in Western Kenya, he had fled to Uganda in 1994 and was resettled to Ghana by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees after being accused of membership of an illegal organization, the February Eighteenth Movement. On arrival in Kenya he was reportedly arrested, taken to Buru Buru police station in Nairobi, and then transferred to the Police Criminal Investigation Department (CID) Headquarters for interrogation. His current place of detention is not known. According to information received by Amnesty International he has been denied access to a lawyer, medical treatment and his family. Attempts by his family and lawyer to discover his whereabouts and to visit him have been unsuccessful.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The clandestine February Eighteenth Movement, accused by the government of planning anti-government violence, was reported to have been active on a small scale in Western Kenya during 1994 and 1995.

Amnesty International has documented the torture and illegal detention by the security service of several people suspected to be members of the February Eighteenth Movement some of whom have died in custody.

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

- urging that immediate measures be taken to ensure the safety of Patrick Wangamati and that, in particular, his place of detention be made known;
- urging that Patrick Wangamati be allowed access to his family, lawyer and a doctor;
- requesting urgent clarification of his legal status and assurances that he is being humanely treated while in detention;
- expressing concern at his illegal detention and urging that he be either charged with a recognizable criminal offence or released without further delay.

APPEALS TO:

Commissioner Duncan Kabethi Wachira
Commissioner of Police
PO Box 30083, Nairobi, Kenya

Telegrams: Police Commissioner Wachira, Nairobi, Kenya

Salutation: Dear Commissioner

Mr Amos Wako
Attorney General
PO Box 40112
Nairobi, Kenya

Telegrams: Attorney General Wako, Nairobi, Kenya

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Faxes: + 254 2 211082
Salutation: Dear Attorney General

COPIES TO:

Director Noah arap Too
Criminal Investigation Department
c/o Kenya Police Headquarters
PO Box 30083
Nairobi, Kenya

Faxes: + 254 2 330495 (if voice, ask for fax tone)

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 23 December 1997.