

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AFR 32/68/97

9 December 1997

Further information on EXTRA 160/97 (AFR 32/63/97, 26 November 1997) - Fear of Torture while being Illegally Detained

KENYA Patrick Wangamati, businessman, aged over 60

Patrick Wangamati was released without charge on 3 December 1997. He had been detained incommunicado without charge since his arrest at Nairobi airport on 6 October. This far exceeded the legal limit for detention without charge of 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 arrested, taken to Buru Buru police station in Nairobi, and then transferred to the Police Criminal Investigation Department (CID) Headquarters for interrogation. He was held in various different police stations before being released eight weeks and three days later.

Many thanks to all who sent appeals which are believed to have played an important part in the release of Patrick Wangamati. One of his relatives informed AI that "your protest was very helpful". Participants may send a final round of letters and faxes:

- welcoming the release of Patrick Wangamati;
- expressing deep concern that he was held incommunicado without charge far beyond the limit allowed by Kenyan law;
- urging that an investigation be carried out into his illegal detention and for those responsible to be brought to justice. Asking to be kept informed of the results of this investigation.

APPEALS TO:

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

Mr Amos Wako
Attorney General
PO Box 40112
Nairobi, Kenya
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)

2

and to diplomatic representatives of Kenya accredited to your country.