

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AFR 36/39/92

Distr: UA/SC

15 September 1992

Further information on UA 114/92 (AFR 36/09/92, 6 April 1992) and follow-ups AFR 36/10/92, 14 April 1992, AFR 36/13/92, 30 April 1992, AFR 36/17/92, 8 May 1992, AFR 36/19/92, 12 May 1992, AFR 36/23/92, 5 June 1992, AFR 36/32/92, 13 July 1992 and AFR 36/34/92, 15 July 1992 - Legal concern/Fear of extrajudicial execution

MALAWI: Chakufwa CHIHANA, aged 52, international trade union official

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Chakufwa Chihana was released on bail by a Malawian court on 8 September 1992, and is due to come to trial on 21 September 1992. He is reported to be in poor health after more than five months' unlawful detention.

A prominent figure in the emerging multi-party movement, Chakufwa Chihana was originally arrested on 6 April 1992 and held without charge for more than three months. In July 1992 he was charged on three counts connected with seditious publications and released on bail. The publications included letters and speeches advocating a peaceful transition from one-party to multi-party rule in Malawi. Only days after his release he was rearrested and has been held for a further two months without charge. Now he has been charged with two further counts of sedition, relating to press interviews he gave after his release in July 1992.

According to an official announcement, Chakufwa Chihana's trial on the original three counts of sedition will begin on 21 September 1992. Amnesty International considers that if he were convicted and imprisoned he would once again be a prisoner of conscience and is calling for all charges to be withdrawn.

No further action is requested from Urgent Action participants at the moment. Thank you to all those who have sent appeals on Chakufwa Chihana's behalf.