

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AFR 44/10/97

13 May 1997

Further information on UA 04/97 (AFR 44/01/97, 8 January 1997) - Fear of ill-treatment / possible prisoner of conscience

NIGERIA Godwin Agbroko, aged about 40, editor of *The Week* news magazine, former prisoner of conscience

Godwin Agbroko was released on 6 May 1997. He had been detained without charge or trial since 18 December 1996. He said that he had been chained throughout his detention. He had been detained for publishing an report about divisions within the military. He said after his release that the authorities had not disputed the facts of his report, but had wanted to find out the source of his information.

If you can, please send letters:

- welcoming the release but expressing concern that Godwin Agbroko was reportedly chained throughout his detention;
- expressing concern at the lack of any safeguards against ill-treatment of detainees and calling on the government to restore rights of access by detainees to the courts as well as visiting rights by family and lawyers.

APPEALS TO:

General Sani Abacha
Chairman, Provisional Ruling Council
State House, Abuja, Federal Capital Territory, Nigeria
Faxes: + 234 9 523 2138
Salutation: Dear General

Dr Auwalu Hamisu Yadudu
Special adviser to the Head of State on judicial matters
State House, Abuja, Federal Capital Territory, Nigeria
Salutation: Dear Dr Yadudu

COPIES TO:

Mr Justice P.K. Nwokedi, Chairman
National Human Rights Commission
c/o Ministry of Justice, Marina, Lagos, Nigeria

The Editor, *The Week*, PO Box 11333, Ikeja, Lagos, Nigeria
The Editor, *Tempo*, PMB 21531, Ikeja, Lagos, Nigeria
The Editor, *National Concord*, POB 4483, Ikeja, Lagos, Nigeria
The Editor, *The Punch*, PMB 21204, Ikeja, Lagos, Nigeria

and to diplomatic representatives of Nigeria accredited to your country.