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Further information on UA 434/91 (AFR 44/16/91, 11 December 1991) - Prisoners of conscience/legal concern

NIGERIA:

Alhaji Lamidi Adedibu	former leading member of National Party of Nigeria, the ruling party from 1979 to 1983, in Oyo State
Chief Bola Ige,	former Governor of Oyo State
Alhaji Lateef Kayode Jakande	former Governor of Lagos State
Alhaji Lawal Keita	former Governor of Kaduna State
Chief Francis Arthur Nzeribe	former Senator, previously detained without charge or trial from March to April 1991
Chief C.C. Onoh	former Governor of Anambra State
Alhaji Mohammed Abubakar Rimi	former Governor of Kano State
Dr Olusola Sariki	former leader of the National Party of Nigeria in the Senate
Dr Paul Unongo	psycho-pathologist, former Minister of Steel, previously detained incommunicado and without charge or trial April to June 1990
Maj-Gen (Retd) Shehu Musa Yar'Adua	former Chief of Staff, Supreme Headquarters, and senior member of the military government of General Olusegun Obasanjo (1976-79)
Alhaji Bello Maitama Yusuf	former Minister of Commerce

On the 20 December 1991 the Nigerian authorities announced the release of **Alhaji Lamidi Adedibu, Chief Bola Ige, Alhaji Lateef Kayode Jakande, Alhaji Lawal Keita, Chief Francis Arthur Nzeribe, Chief C.C. Onoh, Alhaji Mohammed Abubakar Rimi, Dr Olusola Sariki, Dr Paul Unongo, Maj-Gen (Retd) Shehu Musa Yar'Adua, Alhaji Bello Maitama Yusuf**. The men, considered by Amnesty International to be prisoners of conscience, had been held since 2 December 1991 and were charged under the Participation in Politics and Elections (prohibition) Decree, No.25 of 1987, which prohibits former government officials from involvement in politics during the transition to civilian rule even if they have not been convicted of committing any offences while previously in office. Shortly before the releases, the military government announced its decision to lift the ban on former politicians' involvement in political activities.

No further action is required. Thank you to all those who sent appeals on their behalf.