

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AFR 51/08/98

2 March 1998

Further information on UA 20/98 (AFR 51/01/98, 20 January 1998) and follow-up (AFR 51/03/98, 28 January 1998) - Torture or ill-treatment/Prisoners of conscience

SIERRA LEONE Sylvanus Kanyako, journalist, *Herald Guardian*
David Kamara, proprietor of *Herald Guardian*
Anthony Swaray, freelance journalist

Amnesty International has learned that both Sylvanus Kanyako and David Kamara were released shortly after 13 February 1998, when Nigerian troops of the West African force deployed in Sierra Leone entered Freetown, forcing the ruling Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) from power.

Sylvanus Kanyako and David Kamara had been detained for more than a month. They were arrested on 10 January after an article published in the *Herald Guardian* suggested that a prominent member of the AFRC should be arrested in connection with the looting of the Iranian Embassy in Freetown in late December 1997.

Both men were tortured and ill-treated while in detention. Sylvanus Kanyako is reported to have sustained serious injuries from having his arms tied tightly behind his back.

Anthony Swaray had earlier been released without charge on 21 January 1998.

The government of President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, which was overthrown by the AFRC in a military coup in May 1997, is now returning to Freetown.

No further action by Urgent Action participants is requested. Thank you to all those who took action, particularly as it was often difficult to send faxes to Freetown.