

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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PLEASE ORGANIZE UP TO 10 APPEALS PER SECTION.

UA 196/91 Death After Detention/Prison Conditions

10 June 1991

TANZANIA: Musa MEMBAR

Musa Membar, the leader of the clandestine opposition Tanzania Youth Democratic Movement, died in Muhimbili Medical Centre in Dar es Salaam on 25 May 1991 after being held in administrative detention without charge or trial in Ukonga Prison in Dar es Salaam since he entered Tanzania on 14 September 1991. According to reports, he was brought to the medical centre in an unconscious state on 21 May 1991. After he regained consciousness he was informed that his detention order was rescinded, probably because he was so ill. Instead, he was served with a deportation order to leave the country within seven days, apparently on the grounds that he had entered Tanzania on foreign travel documents. He died in the medical centre a few days later. The Director of Administration at the medical centre has indicated that Musa Membar died of a "known disease", but there has been no official or unofficial information on the cause of his death.

Amnesty International had received reports for the past few months that Musa Membar had been ill-treated in custody, but it was not able to confirm these reports. The organization is concerned that poor prison conditions and inadequate medical treatment may have contributed to Musa Membar's death.

There have been many reports that conditions in Ukonga Prison are poor. Musa Membar's death follows that of Remi Gahutu, the leader of the Parti pour la libération du peuple Hutu (PALIPEHUTU), a political movement in opposition to the Burundi Government, who was also a prominent detainee held in Ukonga Prison. Remi Gahutu died on 19 August 1990. An autopsy indicated that the probable cause of death was a heart-attack. It has been claimed, however, that the poor conditions of his detention and inadequate medical treatment exacerbated his medical condition.

Amnesty International is urging the Tanzanian Government to order an autopsy and public inquest into Musa Membar's death and the circumstances that surrounded it.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

On 14 September 1990, Musa Membar was detained as he entered Tanzania from Kenya, apparently returning to the country voluntarily. He later claimed that he had returned to participate in Tanzania's political process and elections.

In 1982 he had hijacked a plane flying from Tanzania to London, for which he was arrested and served an eight-year jail term in the United Kingdom. He initially applied for asylum in the United Kingdom after he had served this sentence, but then travelled to Kenya to return to Tanzania. Amnesty International had been investigating the reasons for his detention which appeared to be politically motivated.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/express and airmail letters:

- expressing concern at the death of Musa Membar, an administrative detainee who fell seriously ill in Ukonga Prison (and while in hospital was ordered

to be deported from the country);

- referring to allegations that he had been ill-treated in prison and expressing concern that poor prison conditions and inadequate medical treatment may have contributed to Musa Membar's death;

- urging the Tanzanian Government to order an autopsy and public inquest into Musa Membar's death;

- calling for an immediate inquiry into the treatment of political detainees and urging a commitment to the provision of all necessary medical treatment when detainees fall ill.

APPEALS TO: (UP TO TEN APPEALS PER SECTION) :

His Excellency Ndugu Ali Hassan Mwinyi
President of the United Republic of Tanzania
Office of the President
State House
PO Box 9120
Dar es Salaam
Tanzania

Telegrams: President Mwinyi, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Telexes: 41192

The Hon. Ndugu Augustine Mrema
Minister of Home Affairs
Ministry of Home Affairs
PO Box 9223
Dar es Salaam
Tanzania

**Telegrams: Minister Home Affairs Mrema,
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania**
Telexes: 41231

The Hon. Ndugu Damian Lubuva
Attorney General
Office of the Attorney General
PO Box 9050
Dar es Salaam
Tanzania

**Telegrams: Attorney General Lubuva,
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.**
Telexes: 41086

COPIES TO:

Commissioner Ndugu J H Mangara
Commissioner of Prisons
Prison Headquarters
PO Box 9120
Dar es Salaam
Tanzania

and to diplomatic representatives of Tanzania in your country

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 22 July 1991.