

16 March 2001

Further information on UA 25/01 (AFR 56/004/2001, 31 January 2001) and follow-up (AFR 56/005/2001, 9 February 2001) - Fear of Torture and new concern: prisoners of conscience

TANZANIA Mohammed Ali Yussuf

Hamad Masoud Hamad
Maulid Makame Abdullah
Juma Othman Juma
Ahmed Seif
At least 600 others

New names: Juma Duni Haji

Machano Khamis Ali
Suleiman Seif
At least 17 others

Three leading members of the opposition Civic United Front (CUF) are known to have been arrested and imprisoned solely for the non-violent expression of their political beliefs. Amnesty International considers all three to be prisoners of conscience.

Juma Duni Haji and Machano Khamis Machano were arrested in Zanzibar on 21 February, and charged with participating in an illegal demonstration in Zanzibar town on 27 January. On 23 February they were released but immediately rearrested outside the High Court and charged with the murder of a police officer during a 27 January demonstration in Wete, Pemba island. Neither is believed to have been in Pemba at the time of the demonstrations. They are currently held in Zanzibar Central Prison, but may be moved to Pemba, where they would be at risk of torture. Both men had recently been released after three years as prisoners of conscience, held on fabricated charges of treason. At least 19 other CUF party leaders have also been charged with the murder, even though they and other CUF party leaders were arrested the day before the demonstration and were in police custody at the time of the demonstration. They are now held in Wete prison in Pemba. Among them are Ahmed Seif and his brother Suleiman. Ahmed Seif is a member of the Zanzibar parliament, the House of Representatives. He was tortured after his arrest.

The first four leading CUF officials named above have been freed on bail, together with most of the hundreds of people arrested for taking part in the demonstrations. They could still be tried and imprisoned for participating in an unlawful demonstration. They were severely beaten in police and prison custody, then taken to court and remanded in custody for two weeks on charges of taking part in an illegal demonstration. They were held incommunicado for two weeks, during which they were tortured.

More than 2,000 people, including at least 16 members of the Zanzibar House of Representatives, have now fled to Kenya, and are living in the Shimoni refugee camp near Mombasa.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Tanzanian security forces began a violent crackdown on the CUF and other opposition parties in late January. Since then an Amnesty International mission has documented systematic torture, including rape and beatings, during and after the crackdown. The security forces are known to have used excessive and

indiscriminate force against civilians during the 27 January demonstrations. Scores of people were reportedly killed in Pemba during the demonstrations, including one police officer. Hundreds were arrested on the mainland, in Zanzibar town and Dar es Salaam.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in English or your own language:

- saying that Juma Duni Haji, Machano Khamis Machano and Ahmed Seif are prisoners of conscience who should be released immediately and unconditionally;
- asking for assurances that none of those in custody will be tortured or ill-treated, and that they will be given access to lawyers, families and medical treatment;
- urging the government to order an independent and impartial inquiry into the killings and torture during and after the 27 January demonstrations, and to bring those found responsible to justice.

APPEALS TO:

President Benjamin Mkapa
Office of the President
PO Box 9120
Dar es Salaam
Tanzania

Telegrams: President Benjamin Mkapa, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Faxes : + 25551 113425 / + 255 222 11 3425
Salutation: Your Excellency

President Amani Abeid Karume
Office of the President of Zanzibar
PO Box 2422
Zanzibar
Tanzania

Telegram: President Aman Abeid Karume, Zanzibar, Tanzania
Faxes: + 25554 233722
Salutation: Your Excellency

Mr. Omar Mahita,
Inspector General of Police
Tanzania Police Headquarters
PO Box 9223
Dar es Salaam
Tanzania

Telegrams: Inspector General of Police, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Faxes: + 255 51 136 556 / + 25551 118334 (c/o Ministry of Home Affairs)
Salutation: Dear Inspector General

Police Commissioner of Zanzibar
Mr. Khalid Iddi Nauzani
Zanzibar Police Headquarters
PO Box 4220
Zanzibar
Tanzania

Telegram: Police Commissioner of Zanzibar
Faxes: + 2554 233722 (c/o the President's Office)
Saltation: Dear Commissioner

COPIES TO:

Mr Andrew Chenge
Office of the Attorney General
PO Box 9050
Dar es Salaam
Tanzania
Telegram: Attorney General, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Faxes: + 255 51 116 654
Salutation: Dear Attorney General

Mr Iddi Hassan Pandu
Attorney General's Chambers
P O Box 239
Zanzibar
Tanzania
Telegram: Attorney General, Zanzibar, Tanzania
Faxes: + 255 24 318 22 (c/o Office of the President)
Salutation: Dear Attorney General

and to diplomatic representatives of Tanzania accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 27 April 2001.