

PUBLIC

AI Index: AFR 57/002/2003

Further Information on UA 56/03 Fear of torture/Prisoner of Conscience

3 March 2003

TOGO **Marc Palanga (m), leader of the *Union des forces du changement* (UFC),
Union of Forces for Change**
new name: **Mazama Katassa (m), member of UFC**

On 26 February, a member the *Union des forces du changement* (UFC), Union of Forces for Change, was arrested in Sotouboua, central Togo. He was transferred on 1 March to Kara Gendarmerie (paramilitary police station) in northern Togo, where he is being held incommunicado detention.

There are concerns for his safety as UFC members, including Marc Palanga have recently been tortured and ill-treated by Togolese military personnel, following their arrest. There are fears that similar ill-treatment may be inflicted by the gendarmerie.

As with Marc Palanga, Amnesty International believes that Mazama Katassa has been arrested solely on account of his peaceful involvement with the UFC and considers him to be a prisoner of conscience.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in French or your own language:

- urging the Togolese authorities to take immediate measures to prevent Marc Palanga and Mazama Katassa being tortured or ill-treated and to guarantee their safety;
- stating that Amnesty International considers them to be prisoners of conscience and is calling for their immediate and unconditional release;
- urging the authorities to allow them immediate access to their families, lawyers and any medical treatment they may require;
- requesting that a thorough investigation be conducted into the reported beatings of *Union des forces du changement* (UFC), Union of Forces for Change, members detained between 9-17 February 2003 and for those responsible be brought to justice;
- calling on the authorities to end arbitrary arrest and detention, torture and ill-treatment of members of opposition parties in Togo.

APPEALS TO:

President of the Republic of Togo

His Excellency /Son Excellence
Monsieur le Général Gnassingbé Eyadéma
Président de la République
Palais présidentiel, Avenue de la Marina
Lomé, Togo

Telegrams: **Président, Lomé, Togo**
Fax : **+228 221 32 04 (Please specify : « À l'attention du Président de la République »)**
Email : **presidence@republicoftogo.com**
Salutation : **Dear President/Monsieur le Président**

Minister of Interior

Monsieur Akila Eso Boko

Ministre de l'Intérieur et de la Sécurité
Ministère de l'Intérieur et de la Sécurité
Rue Albert Sarraut
Lomé, Togo

Telegram: **Ministre de l'Intérieur, Lomé, Togo**
Email : **info@republicoftogo.com** (This address is used by all ministeries, so please
specify : « À l'attention du ministre de l'Intérieur »)
Salutation : **Dear Minister / Monsieur le Ministre**

Minister of Justice

Katari Foly-Bazi
Ministre de la Justice et Garde des Sceaux
Ministère de la Justice, Avenue de la Marina
Rue Colonel le Roux
Lomé, Togo

Telegram : **Ministre de la Justice, Lomé, Togo**
Fax : **+228 221 22 06**
Salutation : **Dear Minister/ Monsieur le Ministre**

COPIES TO: Diplomatic representatives of Togo accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 14 April 2003.