

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 64/93 (AFR 63/01/93, 9 March 1993) and follow-ups AFR 63/02/93, 19 March 1993 and AFR 63/03/93, 23 March 1993 - Legal concern

ZAMBIA:

Bweendo Mulengela

Bonnie Tembo

Peter Lishika

Christopher Muyoka

Wezi Kaunda

Steven Moyo

Rabson Chongo - released

Stan Mutanga - released

William Banda - released

Rupiya Banda - released

Sianda Ilukena

Cuthbert Nguni

Henry Kamima

McPherson Mbulo - released

Amnesty International has learnt that Rabson Chongo, Stan Mutanga, William Banda, Rupiya Banda and McPherson Mbulo, who were arrested on 5 and 7 March 1993, have had their detention orders revoked and were released on 24 April 1993. All were detained under the Preservation of Public Security Regulations which came in force after a State of Emergency was declared on 4 March 1993. The regulations allow indefinite detention without charge or trial.

The nine other men named above, who were detained on 5 and 7 March 1993, have been officially informed of the reasons for their arrest. The Movement for Multi-Party Democracy (MMD) government, led by President Frederick Chiluba, alleges that they were the authors of a document entitled the Zero Option, which outlines a strategy to make the country ungovernable through a campaign of civil disobedience; that they conspired to carry out its contents; and that they disseminated the document between 1 January and 5 March 1993. The government does not appear to be in a position to bring criminal charges against the detainees.

It has been alleged that Cuthbert Nguni and Henry Kamima have been ill-treated in detention and the Minister of Legal and Constitutional Affairs has indicated that these allegations will be investigated. Cuthbert Nguni, member of parliament for Chipata, was allegedly questioned without a break for 39 hours during which time he was made to balance on two bricks. It is also alleged that he was made to perform exercises that involved spinning in one place to induce dizziness and that when he fell to the ground he was kicked. Henry Kamima, former head of security when UNIP was in government, is reported to have been tied to a chair and punched.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The government led by President Frederick Chiluba claims to have discovered a UNIP plot to make the country ungovernable through an orchestrated campaign of civil disobedience. The evidence so far made public is a document entitled The Zero Option which was discovered in UNIP headquarters in Lusaka. The UNIP leadership has denied that the document was party

policy. The authorities claim to have subsequently uncovered a second document which gives details of a coup plot.

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

- expressing concern at the continuing detention without charge or trial of the nine United National Independence Party (UNIP) members named above (please select two or three names from the list as examples) who Amnesty International believes may be prisoners of conscience detained for their non-violent opposition to the government;

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- expressing Amnesty International's opposition to administrative detention procedures which provide for indefinite detention without charge or trial;

- expressing concern at allegations that Cuthbert Nguni and Henry Kamima have been physically ill-treated;

- welcoming the announcement by the Minister for Legal and Constitutional Affairs that allegations of ill-treatment would be investigated but urging that these investigations be independent and impartial and that the government makes public their findings;

- welcoming the release of Rabson Chongo, Stan Mutanga, William Banda, Rupiya Banda and McPherson Mbulo and William Banda and urging that all the other detainees be released if they are not to be charged with a recognisably criminal offence and brought promptly to a fair trial.

APPEALS TO

1) His Excellency Frederick Chiluba
President of the Republic of Zambia
Office of the President
State House
PO Box 30208
Lusaka, Zambia

Salutation: Your Excellency

Telegrams: President Chiluba, Lusaka, Zambia
Telexes: 41998 or 41460

2) The Hon. Newsteadimba
Minister of Home Affairs
Ministry of Home Affairs
PO Box 32862
Lusaka, Zambia

Salutation: Dear Minister

Telegrams: Hon. Newsteadimba, Minister of Home Affairs, Lusaka, Zambia
Telexes: 40344

3) The Hon. Vernon Mwaanga
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Charter House
PO Box 50069
Lusaka, Zambia

Salutation: Dear Minister

Telegrams: Hon. Vernon Mwaanga, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lusaka, Zambia
Telexes: 41290

4) The Hon. L. Sondashi
Minister of Legal Affairs
Ministry of Legal Affairs
PO Box 50106
Fairley Rd
Lusaka, Zambia

Salutation: Dear Minister

Telegrams: Hon. L Sondashi, Minister of Legal Affairs, Lusaka, Zambia
Telexes: 40564

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

the following newspapers:

The Editor
Weekly Post
Private Bag EF 352
Lusaka, Zambia

The Editor
The Times of Zambia
PO Box 30394
Lusaka, Zambia

and to diplomatic representatives of Zambia accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 9 June 1993.