

EXTERNAL

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To: Medical professionals
From: Medical Office/ Africa Regional Program
Date: 17 July 1997

MEDICAL LETTER WRITING ACTION
Dr. Beko RANSOME-KUTI
Dr. Frederick FASEHUN
NIGERIA

Keywords

Theme: arbitrary detention/secret trial/ POC
Profession/association: doctor/ human rights activist

Summary

Dr Beko Ransome-Kuti, a medical doctor, former head of the Nigerian Medical Association, and a human rights and pro-democracy activist, was arrested on 27 July 1995. He is currently serving a 15-year-sentence following a secret trial by a military tribunal. Dr Frederick Fasehun, also a medical doctor and Dr Ransome-Kuti's successor as acting chairperson of the Campaign for Democracy, was arrested on 18 December 1996 and has been charged with treason with 15 others, for alleged involvement in recent bombings in Nigeria. Those charged include Nobel Laureate Wole Soyinka and three other exiles. Amnesty International regards Dr Ransome-Kuti and Dr Fasehun as prisoners of conscience and is calling for their immediate and unconditional release.

Recommended Actions

Letters are requested from health professionals to the addresses below:

- expressing concern at the imprisonment of Dr Beko Ransome-Kuti and Dr Frederick Fasehun and at their harsh and health threatening prison conditions
- seeking information about their current situation including their state of health
- urging that they be given full rights of access to a lawyer, doctor and to family members, and be given appropriate medical care;
- calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Dr Beko Ransome-Kuti and Dr Frederick Fasehun on the grounds that they are prisoners of conscience imprisoned for the non- violent expression of their political views

ADDRESSES:

Head of State
General Sani Abacha
Chairman, Provisional Ruling Council
State House, Abuja, Federal Capital Territory, Nigeria
Faxes: +234 9 523 2138
Salutation: Dear General Abacha

Dr Auwalu Hamisu Yadudu
. Special Adviser to the Head of State on Judicial Matters
State House, Abuja, Federal Capital Territory, Nigeria
Salutation: Dear Dr Yadudu

Alhaji Baba Gana Kingibe
Minister of Internal Affairs
Ministry of Internal Affairs
Abuja, Federal Capital Territory, Nigeria
Telegrams: Alhaji Kingibe, Abuja, Nigeria
Salutation: Dear Minister

Dr Ihechukwu Madubuike
Minister for Health and Human Resources
Ministry of Health, Abuja, Federal Capital Territory, Nigeria
Salutation: Dear Dr Madubuike

Copies of appeals may be sent to any of the following

Mr Justice P.K. Nwokedi
Chairman
National Human Rights Commission
c/o State House, Abuja, Federal Capital
Territory, Nigeria

Nigerian Medical Association
74 Adeniyi Jones Avenue
Ikeja - POB 1108
Lagos, Nigeria

Chief Tom Ikimi
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Maputo Street
PMB 130, Abuja, Federal Capital Territory,
Nigeria

The Editor, *The News*, PMB 21531, Ikeja, Lagos, Nigeria
The Editor, *Tell*, PMB 21749, Ikeja, Lagos, Nigeria
The Editor, *Abuja Times*, Daily Times Publications, Abuja, Federal Capital Territory, Nigeria
The Editor, *Vanguard*, PMB 1007, Apapa, Lagos, Nigeria
The Editor, *Nigerian Observer*, PMB 1334, Benin City, Edo State, Nigeria
The Editor, *Nigerian Tribune*, POB 78, Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria

and to diplomatic representatives of Nigeria accredited to your country.

Please send this information to your national medical association with a request that they appeal on behalf Dr Ransome-Kuti and Dr Fasehun.