

AGUSTÍN ESONO NSOGO

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

FREE AGUSTÍN ESONO NSOGO

PLEASE HELP

AGUSTÍN ESONO NSOGO

Agustín Esono Nsogo has been in arbitrary detention for over a year. He was arrested in Bata, the main city on the mainland part of Equatorial Guinea, on 17 October 2012. Amnesty International believes that his arrest and continued detention without charge or trial is politically motivated and unjustified and is calling for his immediate and unconditional release.

Agustín Esono Nsogo is a teacher, the owner and director of a private school in Bata. He is also the nephew of a co-founder of the political opposition party Unión Popular – UP (Peoples' Union), who died in police custody as a result of torture in 1993.

Agustín Esono Nsogo was arrested at his home in Bata at about 11 pm by police officers who did not have a warrant for his arrest. It appears that the reason for his arrest was that the day before he had exchanged money with a French national resident in Bata who wanted to leave Equatorial Guinea in a hurry as he felt his life was in danger. Immediately after his arrest he was put on a plane to the capital, Malabo, and imprisoned at Black Beach prison where he was held incommunicado for at least a week. During that time, he was tortured on three occasions, apparently to force him to confess to a plot to destabilise the country, supposedly led by a former leader of the UP living in exile in Spain. Agustín Esono was beaten on both wrists, the soles of the feet and the head with batons and as result lost hearing in his left ear.

He did not have his detention legalised within the 72 hours prescribed by national law, but only one month after his arrest, in November. Although he has not been charged or tried, he remains in prison, and has been accused of attempting to destabilise the country, which does not exist in Equatorial Guinea's Penal Code. His lawyer's appeals to the Malabo Provincial Court (Audiencia Provincial) for his release based on the illegality of his arrest and detention have not been considered, largely because of disagreement between the Provincial Courts (Audiencias Provinciales) of Malabo and Bata over which court is competent to examine the case.

ACT NOW

WRITE POLITELY TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC:

- Calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Agustín Esono Nsogo, who have been arbitrarily arrested and detained solely for political reasons.
- Expressing concern about the detention without charge or trial, a year after his being arrested and accused of an alleged crime which does not exist in the country's Penal Code, in contravention of nationals and international human rights law.
- Expressing further concern at the torture of Agustín Esono and calling for an investigation into the torture and for those responsible to be brought to justice.

Send your letters to:

President Teodoro Obiang Nguema
Gabinete del Presidente de la República
Palacio del Pueblo
Malabo
Equatorial Guinea
Fax: +240 333 09 3313/3334

Salutation: Excelency

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