

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 350/92 (AFR 17/17/92, 11 November 1992) -
Legal/Medical Concern

CAMEROON: Dr Victorin François Hameni Bieleu, President of the Union des forces démocratiques du Cameroun, and campaign manager for the Social Democratic Front (SDF)

Dr Victorin François Hameni Bieleu was released on 31 December 1992. A diabetic, he was initially denied the medication and special diet that he needs.

He had been arrested on 3 November 1992 in Nkongsamba, Coastal Province, after visiting 50 opposition supporters detained without charge in Nkongsamba. He was subsequently transferred from the gendarmerie headquarters in the capital, Yaoundé, to the Brigade Mixte Mobile (BMM), the security police, in Bamenda, North-West Province, where several hundred supporters of the SDF had been arrested following the imposition of a state of emergency in North-West Province on 27 October 1992.

On 23 December 1992 the High Court in Bamenda ordered the release of over 170 emergency detainees held by the security police in Bamenda. The government challenged this decision, saying that the court did not have jurisdiction to release administrative detainees. They were transferred to detention in Yaoundé but were released on 31 December 1992 after their cases had been reviewed by the State Security Court. It was not clear, however, whether all emergency detainees were subsequently released.

No further action on behalf of Dr Victorin François Hameni Bieleu is requested. Amnesty International continues to inquire whether all those detained have now been released (see Extra 90/92 AFR 17/16/92 30 October 1992 and follow-up AFR 17/01/93 of 10 February 1993) and to call for an independent inquiry into recent reports of torture (see follow-up to UA 365/92, AFR 17/03/93 of 10 February 1993).

