

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AFR 17/04/96

27 September 1996

Further information on UA 147/96 (AFR 17/02/96, 17 June 1996) - Fear of torture / ill-treatment

CAMEROON Several hundred students, including:

Christophe EBANGA OMGENE

Maurice TABO

Célestin KAMGE KAPTUE

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Amnesty International has received confirmation that all students arrested in June 1996 following disturbances at the University of Yaoundé have since been released. Some are reported to have been charged with criminal offences.

Amnesty International has not yet received any details about their treatment in detention.

On 14 June 1996 as many as 200 students were reported to have been arrested by police at student quarters near the university. Three student leaders - Christophe Ebanga Omgene, Maurice Tabo and Célestin Kamge Kaptue - had been arrested shortly before. The arrests appeared to have been prompted by an incident during which students physically assaulted a lecturer. Students at the University of Yaoundé had been on strike since early May 1996 for better conditions and for the suppression of certain fees which had been introduced by the authorities. There had been violent confrontations with the security forces.

Amnesty International was seriously concerned about the safety of the students while in detention. Torture, including severe beatings, both of political detainees and criminal suspects by the police and gendarmerie is routine in Cameroon. Some victims have died as a result of their injuries.

No further action by Urgent Action participants is requested. Thank you to all those who appealed on behalf of these students.