

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AFR 17/08/96

12 November 1996

Further information on UA 250/96 (AFR 17/06/96, 31 October 1996) - Prisoner of conscience / Fear of further POCs and new Health concern

CAMEROON Pius Njawe, editor-in-chief of the newspaper Le Messenger

Amnesty International is seriously concerned about reports that Pius Njawe, imprisoned since 29 October 1996, is being denied access to his doctor and the medical treatment he requires. Pius Njawe had been receiving medical treatment for diabetes since August 1996. He is also currently suffering from a swelling (oedema) of his right calf.

He has been denied access to his own doctor since 4 November and his state of health is described as precarious. Conditions of detention in the Central Prison, New Bell, in Douala are harsh. There is severe overcrowding: Pius Njawe is held in a cell with 64 other prisoners.

Pius Njawe was sentenced to a fine and six months' imprisonment on 3 October 1996 after being convicted of insulting the President of the Republic and members of the National Assembly ("*outrage par injure fait au Président de la République ainsi qu'aux membres de l'Assemblée nationale*"). Another journalist working on *Le Messenger*, Eyoum Ngangué, was sentenced to a year's imprisonment in the same case but has not been imprisoned. Their appeal to the Supreme Court against conviction and sentence has not yet been heard.

According to reports, Pius Njawe is due to appear in court again in early December 1996 for his appeal against a suspended sentence of five months' imprisonment imposed in October 1995 for insulting a member of the government (*outrage à un membre du gouvernement*).

Amnesty International believes that Pius Njawe is a prisoner of conscience and is calling for his immediate and unconditional release.

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in English, French or your own language:**

- expressing concern about reports that Pius Njawe is being denied access to his own doctor and the medical treatment which he requires;
- urging that he be allowed visits from his own doctor and all necessary medical treatment;
- again calling for his immediate and unconditional release as a prisoner of conscience.

**APPEALS TO:**

**President:**

Son Excellence M. Paul Biya  
Président de la République  
Palais de l'Unité  
1000 Yaoundé, République du Cameroun

**Telegrams: President Biya, Yaounde, Cameroon**

**Faxes: + 237 221699**

**Telexes: 8207 PRESID KN (Secretariat général); 8595 PRESID B KN (Cabinet civil)**

**Salutation: Monsieur le Président de la République/Dear President Biya**

**Prime Minister:**

Mr Peter Mafany Musonge  
Premier Ministre  
Cabinet du Premier Ministre  
Immeuble Étoile  
1000 Yaoundé, Cameroon

**Telegrams: Prime Minister Achu, Yaounde, Cameroon**

**Faxes: + 237 235765**

**Telexes: 8282 KN**

**Salutation: Monsieur le Premier Ministre / Dear Prime Minister**

**Minister of Justice:**

M. Laurent Esso  
Ministre de la Justice et Garde des Sceaux  
Ministère de la Justice  
1000 Yaoundé, République du Cameroun

**Telegrams: Ministre Justice, Yaoundé, Cameroon**

**Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Dear Minister**

**Prison director:**

Monsieur le Directeur  
Prison centrale de Douala  
BP 6091  
New Bell  
Douala  
Cameroon

**Telegrams: Directeur, Prison centrale, New Bell, Douala, Cameroon**

**Salutation: Monsieur le Directeur/ Dear Sir**

**COPIES TO:**

- *Le Messenger*, BP 5925, 11 Boulevard de la Liberté, Douala, République du Cameroun
- *Cameroon Post*, BP 1981, Yaoundé, République du Cameroon
- *The Herald*, BP 3659 Messa, Yaoundé, République du Cameroun
- *La Nouvelle Expression*, BP 15333, 12 rue Prince de Galles, Douala, République du Cameroun

and to diplomatic representatives of Cameroon accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 25 December 1996.