

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Fear of "disappearance"/legal concern

26 May 1992

CAMEROON:

Sulemanu Paul Tata (aged 13)
Ibrahim Pendap Tata (aged 17)
Kasimo Lemamu (aged 15)
and their friend, known as "Che"

and also:

Oumarou Tata
Ahmadou Tata (aged 14)
Evaristus Eba (aged 14)

Amnesty International is concerned at the reported "disappearance" of four teenage boys. They were reportedly seen being taken into police custody in Bamenda in February 1992 at the time of the arrest of leaders of the Cameroon Anglophone Movement and over 40 others following a peaceful demonstration. Amnesty International is also concerned that the father of two of the boys has subsequently been arrested, together with two other teenage boys.

Two brothers, **Sulemanu Paul Tata** and **Ibrahim Pendap Tata**, their close relative **Kasimo Lemamo**, and their friend known as "**Che**" were reportedly arrested by gendarmes in Bamenda on 11 February 1992, whilst working in their father's compound. Their names reportedly appeared on the official register of detainees at the Gendarmerie in Bamenda but they have not been seen since their arrest and Amnesty International is concerned that they may have "disappeared" in custody.

Oumarou Tata, after trying to find out the fate of his sons and the two other boys, was recently arrested with another of his sons, **Ahmadou Tata** and their landlord's son, **Evaristus Eba**. Eye-witnesses report that on 18 May 1992 Oumarou Tata was dragged out of a car and arrested by two gendarmes. Shortly before this arrest, Ahmadou Tata and Evaristus Eba were reportedly also arrested by gendarmes at the family home.

Oumarou Tata says he has been a target of harassment by gendarme officers. He says that, after the boys' arrest on 11 February 1992, he saw their names on an official register of detainees at the Gendarmerie in Bamenda, and that on 7 April 1992 six gendarmes raided his house demanding to be given the birth certificates of his two sons and their close relative. He claims that they later offered him a large amount of money (25,000,000 CFA francs, approximately \$US 90,000) as a "peace offering", and forced him into hiding for a period by sitting outside his house all night.

At the time of his arrest, Oumarou Tata was driving to the Bamenda Court of the First Instance, where the case against three leaders of the Cameroon Anglophone Movement was scheduled to be heard. The three, Dr Zama Kimbi Ndefru, Stephen Ndi and Blaise Berinyuy, were among those arrested on 11 February 1992. They were charged with organizing an unauthorized public meeting and released on bail. Defence lawyers had apparently intended to call Oumarou Tata and the four missing boys as witnesses, in an attempt to force the authorities to produce the boys in court, and to establish

whether they were in police custody. However, the trial, previously adjourned on 15 April 1992, was again adjourned because the prosecution's main witnesses - three gendarmes - did not appear in court, for the second time.

Amnesty International is concerned that Oumarou Tata and his son, Ahmadou Tata, may have been arrested in an attempt to prevent the authorities having to account for what has happened to the other boys.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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More than 40 people were arrested in Bamenda, the capital of North West Province, following a peaceful demonstration on 11 February 1992. Most are thought to have been released without charge after short periods of detention. (See UA 48/92, AFR 17/03/92, 13 February 1992 and follow-up, AFR 17/08/92, 26 May 1992, for further details).

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:

- expressing concern at reports that four teenage boys - two brothers, **Sulemanu Paul Tata**, **Ibrahim Pendap Tata**, their close relative, **Kasimo Lemamo** and their friend known as "**Che**" - who were among at least 40 people arrested in Bamenda on 11 February 1992, appear to have "disappeared" in custody;
- calling on the authorities to explain what has happened to the four teenage boys since 11 February 1992 when, according to an eye-witness report, they were arrested by the police in Bamenda; stating that their names reportedly appeared on the official register of detainees at the Gendarmerie in Bamenda;
- calling on the authorities to fully investigate the "disappearance" of the four teenage boys and establish what has happened to them;
- expressing concern that the father of two of the boys, **Oumarou Tata**, has also been detained, on 18 May 1992, with another of his sons, **Ahmadou Tata**, and their landlord's son, **Evaristus Eba**, after trying to find out the fate of the children;
- calling on the authorities to release Oumarou Tata, Ahmadou Tata, and Evaristus Eba immediately and unconditionally, unless they are to be brought to court on recognizably criminal charges.

APPEALS TO

1) President:
Son Excellence Monsieur Paul Biya
Président de la République
Palais de l'Unité, Yaoundé, Cameroon
**Telegrams: President Biya, Yaounde,
Cameroon**
Faxes: + 237 221699
**Telexes: 8207 PRESID KN (Secretariat
général)**
**8595 PRESID B KN (Cabinet
civil)**

Ministère de l'Administration
territoriale
1000 Yaoundé 4, Cameroon
**Telegrams: Ministre Tsoungui, Yaounde,
Cameroon**
Telexes: 8503 MINAT KN; 8268 MINAT KN
**Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre/
Dear Minister**

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

2) Minister of the Internal Affairs:
M. Gilbert Andzé Tsoungui
Ministre de l'Administration
territoriale

3) President National Commission for Human Rights:

Mr Solomon Nfor Gwei

Président

Comité national des droits de l'homme
et des libertés

PO Box 287, Yaoundé, Cameroon

**Telegrams: Presdient Comite national
des droits de l'homme et des
libertes, Yaounde, Cameroon**

Telexes: 8243 KN

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

4) Governor of North West Province:

Mr John Ebong Ngolle

Governor of North West Province

Governor's Office, 5000 Bamenda, Cameroon

**Telegrams: Governor Ngolle, Bamenda,
Cameroon**

Salutation: Dear Governor

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

any of the following newspapers:

Postwatch, PO Box 235, Bamenda, Cameroon

Cameroon Post, BP 1981, Yaoundé, Cameroon

Le Messenger, BP 5925, Douala, Cameroon

Challenge Hebdo, BP 13088, Douala, Cameroon

La Nouvelle Expression, BP 5646, Douala,
Cameroon

and Minister of Foreign Affairs:

M. Jacques-Roger Booh Booh

Ministre des Affaires étrangères

Ministère des Affaires étrangères

1000 Yaoundé 4, Cameroon

and to diplomatic representatives of Cameroon in your country

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 7 July 1992.