

EXTERNAL

AI Index: 17/10/96

27 November 1996

Further information on UA 260/96 (AFR 17/07/96, 12 November 1996) - Fear of torture and ill-treatment

CAMEROON Roger Alexis WAMBA
Armand MBE
Blaise NGOUNE (note full name)

Roger Alexis Wamba, Armand Mbe and Blaise Ngoune were conditionally released from detention (*liberté provisoire*) on 22 November 1996. Two other students arrested with them, Alfred Ondona and Zefac Tonang, were also subsequently released.

They were arrested at the campus of the University of Yaoundé on 27 October 1996, accused of provoking further unrest at the university which has been subject to strikes by students for several months during 1996. They were initially detained overnight at the university in the custody of unidentified men in plain clothes believed to have been acting with the complicity of the Cameroonian security forces. They were stripped and beaten with sticks on their buttocks and the soles of their feet.

On 28 October they were transferred to the custody of the security forces and detained at the *Secrétariat d'Etat à la Défense*, Ministry of Defence. Alfred Ondona and Zefac Tonang were reported to have been released three days later, but the other three remained in detention and were refused all visits for a week. They were subsequently brought before the Public Prosecutor's Office (*le parquet*) on 12 November and again on 20 November and charged with breach of the peace (*trouble à l'ordre public*). They are due to appear in court on 27 December 1996. According to the Cameroon national law, anyone who is arrested and detained must be brought before a judicial authority and charged within 72 hours or otherwise released.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send faxes or letters in French, English or your own language:

- expressing concern at reports that students arrested at the University of Yaoundé on 27 October 1996 were beaten at the time of their arrest by men in plain clothes believed to be acting with the complicity of the security forces;
- urging an impartial investigation into these reports, that its results be made public and that those responsible to be brought to justice;
- urging the authorities to introduce safeguards to protect all prisoners and detainees from torture and ill-treatment and to institute impartial investigations into all allegations of torture and ill-treatment with a view to bringing those responsible to justice, in line with Cameroon's international obligations, including the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

APPEALS TO:

President

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

Faxes: + 237 221699

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, République du Cameroun

Faxes: + 237 235765

Salutation: Monsieur le Premier Ministre / Dear Prime Minister

Minister of Justice

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

Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Dear Minister

Delegate general for security

Monsieur Luc Loé
Délégué général à la Sûreté
Délégation générale à la Sûreté nationale
Palais de l'Unité, Yaoundé, République du Cameroun

Salutation: Monsieur le Délégué général/ Dear Sir

COPIES TO:

Rector of the University of Yaoundé

Professeur Jean Messi
Recteur
Université de Yaoundé I
Yaoundé, République du Cameroun

Minister of Higher Education

Mr Peter Agbor Tabi
Ministre de l'Enseignement supérieur
Ministère de l'Enseignement supérieur
Yaoundé, République du Cameroun

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

President, National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms

Dr Solomon Nfor Gwei
PO Box 20317, Yaoundé, 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 1 January 1997.