

17 February 1998

Further information on UA 24/98 (AFR 24/01/98, 23 January 1998) and follow-ups (AFR 24/02/98, 27 January 1998, AFR 24/04/98, 30 January 1998) - Fear of torture/possible prisoners of conscience/extrajudicial executions and new concern: death in custody

EQUATORIAL GUINEA Víctor Buyaban, teacher - and his wife (name unknown)

Father Eduardo Losoa, Roman Catholic priest

Augustín Iriri

Juan Loeri, director of studies of the School of

Agriculture

Marcelo Lohoso, parliamentarian

Cristino Meda Seriche

Aurelio Losoa, age 78

Florencio Sicoco

Anastasio Copoboru

"Ebulabate" (no other name known)

Silvestre Orichi, age 59 (now thought to be in hiding)

Remigio Mete;

Atanasio Bitá Rope;

Bienvenido Yamba ;

Epifanio Moaba

Ignacio Bitá

Lucia Quenero (wife of Ignacio Bitá)

Arcadio Boneke

Enrique Boneke Mitelepo, age 79 (whereabouts unknown)

And others

Marcelino Malope Mele (killed)

Gustavo Mulé, around 30 years old (killed)

Mansueto Loeri (whereabouts unknown)

New names: Carmelo Yeck Bohopo, over 60 years old
And at least three other people

Carmelo Yeck Bohopo's died in custody on 9 February 1998, reportedly as a result of torture. He was detained in connection with attacks on military barracks on Bioko Island on 21 January 1998. Carmelo Yeck Bohopo was arrested in Malabo, the capital of Equatorial Guinea, on 6 February when he was leaving a church where he had attended mass. He was taken to the police station and severely beaten. He died three days later. His body was taken to the hospital and buried on 13 February. No autopsy is known to have been carried out.

Scores of other people have been arrested following attacks on the military barracks and Amnesty International has received reports that many of them have been tortured. At least three other people are also reported to have died as a result. Most of the detainees are Bubi, the ethnic group native to Bioko Island, and some may have been detained solely on account of their ethnic origin.

The bodies of three other people were recently buried. The three, whose names are not known to Amnesty International, were reported to have been Bubi and to have died in custody after being tortured. Their bodies were also taken to the hospital. The police refused to disclose their names. Unconfirmed reports suggest that an unknown number of Bubi detainees, who recently died in detention,

were buried in mass graves by members of the security forces.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The arrests of scores of Bubis follow attacks on military barracks in Luba, Moka and Bahó Grande in the early hours of 21 January, which reportedly left eight soldiers and one civilian dead and several other soldiers wounded. The government claimed that the attacks were carried out by members of the *Movimiento para la Autodeterminación de la Isla de Bioko* (MAIB), Movement for the self-determination of Bioko Island, a Bubi political party. Some detainees have been released in recent days but an unknown number is still detained.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please continue action as specified in original UA. In addition please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in Spanish or your own language:

- expressing grave concern about Carmelo Yeck Bohopo's death, reportedly as a result of torture following his arrest on 9 February 1998;
- expressing grave concern about the deaths of at least three unidentified people, who are reported to have died in custody as a result of torture;
- urging the authorities to establish immediately an independent, impartial and thorough inquiry into these deaths and to publish the results;
- seeking assurances that the people arrested since 21 January 1998 will not be subjected to torture or ill-treatment;
- calling for them to have immediate access to their families, legal counsel and medical attention;
- expressing concern that some of the detainees may have been arrested solely for being members of the Bubi ethnic group and calling for them to be released unless promptly charged with recognizable criminal offences;

APPEALS TO:

Note: Appeals may be faxed to the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Security via the Ministry of Interior using fax number: + 240 9 2688 or via the Ministry of Justice using fax number + 240 9 2824 requesting that your fax be forwarded. If voice ask: "me puede conectar el fax por favor".

Fax tones may be difficult to obtain at times due to electricity cuts.

President

Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo
Presidente de la República
Gabinete del Presidente de la República
Malabo, República de Guinea Ecuatorial

Faxes: +240 9 3313

Telexes: 5405 GBNOM 5405 EG

Telegrams: Presidente Obiang, Malabo, Equatorial Guinea

Salutation: Excelencia/Your Excellency

Prime Minister

Serafín Seriche Dougan
Primer Ministro
Gabinete del Primer Ministro
Malabo, República de Guinea Ecuatorial

Telexes: 5405 GBNOM 5405 EG

Telegrams: Primer Ministro Seriche Dougan, Malabo, Equatorial Guinea

Salutation: Excelencia/Your Excellency

Secretary of State for Security

Coronel Manuel Nguema Mba
Secretario de Estado para la Seguridad Nacional

Telexes: 5405 GBNOM 5405 EG

Telegrams: Primer Ministro Seriche Dougan, Malabo, Equatorial Guinea
Salutation: Excelencia/Your Excellency

COPIES TO: diplomatic representatives of Equatorial Guinea accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 31 March 1998.