

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 271/93 Fear of "disappearance"/Fear of ill-treatment

12 August 1993

EQUATORIAL GUINEA: Ten people including:

Feared "disappeared":

José Abeso

Angel Federico Eyí Obamba

Lucas Oyono Nsué

and one other

In detention in Malabo:

Enrique Nguema Bilogo

Vicente Nguema

Primo Ekogo Ondo

Damián Abaga Mikó, 21

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of four men, José Abeso, Angel Federico Eyí Obamba, Lucas Oyono Nsué and one other, who are feared to have "disappeared" in a recent escalation of political oppression in Equatorial Guinea. The organization is further concerned that six others who were also arrested on 9 or 10 August 1993 may be at risk of ill-treatment in detention.

Ten people, mostly members of opposition parties, were arrested in Malabo, the capital on Bioko Island, on 9 and 10 August. They were all taken to the central police station in Malabo which is also the headquarters of the National Security Police. On 10 August the wives of the first four men mentioned above visited the police station, possibly to take food or blankets, and were told that their husbands had been sent to Bata, the capital of the mainland province of Rio Muni. It is doubtful whether, in fact, the four men were taken to Bata and therefore the prison authorities' refusal to disclose any further information as to the prisoners' whereabouts gives cause for concern that they may have "disappeared".

The first three named above have all been briefly detained on previous occasions on account of their political opinions and activities. Angel Federico Eyí Obamba, a member of the Partido de la Convergencia Social Demócrata (PCSD), Social Democratic Convergence Party, was detained on several occasions in 1991 and 1992; Lucas Oyono Nsué, a member of the Unión Popular (UP), Popular Union, and a former soldier, was detained in 1991; and José Abeso Nsué, a former army captain, was held for several weeks in 1988.

Among the six still held in Malabo are Enrique Nguema Bilogo, Vicente Nguema and Primo Ekogo Ondo, all members of the Partido del Progreso (PP), Progress Party. Enrique Nguema Bilogo, a member of the PP youth branch, was arrested in possession of PP pamphlets on 9 August as he was about to board a boat for Bata. He was reportedly informed that he was being arrested because, as a member of an opposition party, he could not travel on the same boat as the Head of State, President Obiang Nguema. Enrique Nguema Bilogo was previously detained in September 1992, when he was badly beaten. Damián Abaga Mikó was also arrested on 9 August outside the Roman Catholic Cathedral in Malabo's main square: he was told that as he had been sitting there for so long he must have been spying on the government buildings in the square.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In addition to the arrests described above, a Spaniard and a Frenchman, both Basques, were arrested over the weekend of 7 and 8 August 1993. The authorities reportedly accused them, in a radio broadcast, of being members of the Basque separatist movement, Euzkadi Ta Askatasuna (ETA), sent by the Spanish government to commit acts of sabotage and terrorism against the Equatorial Guinean government.

On 9 August, four government officials, including the Secretary of State for Security and the Chief of Presidential Security (both brothers of President Obiang Nguema), summoned opposition groups to a meeting and accused them of recruiting paramilitary groups from abroad in preparation for an armed attack against the government. The

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opposition groups denied the allegations, asking for proof, which was not provided, and appealed for the release of the 10 detainees. Since 9 August, many members of opposition parties, fearing arrest, have gone into hiding. Since December 1991, when a multi-party political system was introduced, members of opposition parties have faced continuous harassment and repeated short-term arrests. Elections have been announced for 12 September 1993, but most of the opposition parties have announced that they will boycott them, principally on the grounds that the electoral law is seriously flawed.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/airmail letters either in Spanish, English or in your own language:

- expressing concern at reports that four men, including José Abeso, Angel Federico Eyí Obamba and Lucas Oyono Nsué, who were arrested on 9 or 10 August 1993, may have "disappeared";
- mentioning that police told relatives that the detainees had been taken to Bata but refused to provide further details;
- requesting information about the exact whereabouts, state of health and legal status of these men;
- seeking guarantees that six others, including Enrique Nguema Bilogo, Vicente Nguema, Primo Ekogo Ondo and Damián Abaga Mikó, who were also arrested on 9 or 10 August are being humanely treated in custody and that they are allowed access to their families and lawyers;
- urging that they be released unless they are to be promptly charged with a recognizably criminal offence and fairly tried.

APPEALS TO

1) President:

Coronel Obiang Nguema Mbasogo
Presidente de la República
Ministro de Defensa Nacional
Gabinete del Presidente de la República,
Malabo, República de Guinea Ecuatorial

**Salutation: Su Excelencia /
Your Excellency**

Telegrams: Presidente Obiang Nguema, Malabo, República de Guinea Ecuatorial
Telexes: 5405 GBNOM 5405 EG
Faxes: + 240 9 3313

2) Prime Minister:

Silvestre Siale Bileka
Primer Ministro
Gabinete del Primer Ministro

**Salutation: Excelentísimo Señor /
Dear Prime Minister**

Malabo, República de Guinea Ecuatorial

Telegrams: Primer Ministro Siale Bileka, Malabo, República de Guinea Ecuatorial

Telexes: 5405 GBNOM 5405 EG

3) Minister of Justice and Religion:

Mariano Nsué Nguema

Ministro de Justicia y Culto

Ministerio de Justicia y Culto

Malabo, República de Guinea Ecuatorial

Telegrams: Ministro de Justicia Nsué Nguema Malabo, República de Guinea Ecuatorial

Telexes: 5405 GBNOM 5405 EG

**Salutation: Excelentísimo Señor /
Dear Minister**

4) Foreign Minister:

Benjamín Mba Ekua Mikó

Ministro de Asuntos Exteriores & Francofonía

Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores

Malabo, República de Guinea Ecuatorial

Telegrams: Ministro de Asuntos Exteriores Mba Ekua, Malabo, República de Guinea Ecuatorial

Telexes: 5405 GBNOM 5405 EG

Faxes: + 240 9 2320

**Salutation: Excelentísimo Señor /
Dear Minister**

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS 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 23 September 1993.