

**MARCELINO  
NGUEMA  
AND  
SANTIAGO  
ASUMU  
EQUATORIAL  
GUINEA**

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



**FREE THE  
PRISONERS OF  
CONSCIENCE**

# PLEASE HELP MARCELINO NGUEMA AND SANTIAGO ASUMU

Marcelino Nguema and Santiago Asumu are members of an opposition political party in Equatorial Guinea, the People's Union (Unión Popular – UP). They are prisoners of conscience who were arrested solely for their peaceful political activities. They have been acquitted by a court of all the charges brought against them, but are still held in prison.

On 17 February 2009, there was a reported attack on the presidential palace in Malabo, the capital, which the authorities blamed on a Nigerian armed group, the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta. (The group denied responsibility.) President Obiang Nguema asserted that the attackers had been assisted and financed by Equatorial Guineans inside the country, adding that although they were not yet known they would be tried on charges of “aggression and terrorism”. Marcelino Nguema and Santiago Asumu were arrested on 18 and 19 February 2009 respectively in Malabo.

Both men were held without charge or trial, first at the central police station and then in Black Beach prison, until mid-October 2009. Both were tortured several times to extract confessions from them. On one occasion, Santiago Asumu

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**Santiago Asumu**

had his hands tied behind him and his mouth stuffed with papers; he was then put in a sack and beaten.

Marcelino Nguema and Santiago Asumu were tried by the Malabo Appeal Court (Tribunal de Apelación, a first instance court), from 17 to 22 March 2010 on charges of attempting to assassinate President Obiang Nguema. At the beginning of the trial, the prosecution dropped the charges against eight other

UP members who had also been arrested and detained in connection with the attack on the palace.

On 5 April 2010, the court acquitted Marcelino Nguema and Santiago Asumu of all charges. However, instead of setting them free immediately in accordance with the law, the authorities have refused to release them and they remain in detention. Since mid-May they have been held incommunicado, with no contact with the outside world.

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**Marcelino Nguema**

# ACT NOW

## WRITE POLITELY TO THE PRESIDENT OF EQUATORIAL GUINEA:

■ Call for the immediate and unconditional release of Marcelino Nguema and Santiago Asumu, who have been arrested and detained solely for their membership of the UP political party.

■ Express concern about the continued detention of Santiago Asumu and Marcelino Nguema after they were acquitted of all charges by a court of law and say that their detention is illegal.

■ Call for an investigation into the torture of Marcelino Nguema and Santiago Asumu and for those responsible to be brought to justice.

### Send your letters to:

President Teodoro Obiang Nguema  
Gabinete del Presidente de la República  
Palacio del Pueblo  
Malabo  
Equatorial Guinea

Fax: +240 333 09 3313/3334

Salutation: Excellency

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Amnesty International  
International Secretariat  
Peter Benenson House  
1 Easton Street  
London WC1X 0DW  
United Kingdom

[www.amnesty.org](http://www.amnesty.org)  
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