

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AFR 24/10/93

Distr: UA/SC

UA 287/93

Death in custody/torture

24 August 1993

EQUATORIAL GUINEA:

Pedro Motu Mamiaga, political activist

Miguel Nsé Bacale, army sergeant

Pedro Motu Mamiaga died in the Malabo security police headquarters following his arrest on 22 August 1993. He was reported to have been severely tortured. The authorities announced on 23 August that he had committed suicide in prison but gave no further details. Another detainee, Miguel Nsé Bacale, is also reported to have been very badly tortured and to be in a coma as a result: he is apparently still held in the security police headquarters.

Pedro Motu Mamiaga and Miguel Nsé Bacale were among dozens of people arrested in Malabo, the capital, on Bioko Island, over the last five days. The detainees are mostly political activists. Some of them were held in the security police headquarters. Others were taken to Black Beach prison in Malabo or to the barracks recently vacated by the Moroccan troops which had been seconded to Equatorial Guinea under a bi-lateral agreement with the Kingdom of Morocco. Some of those detained were subsequently released: they said that they and their fellow detainees had been tortured.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Since 1979, when the present government came to power, Pedro Motu Mamiaga had spent many years under house arrest. His most recent imprisonment, from December 1990 to late 1991, was followed by a period of restriction to his village. He then left the country, in fear of his life. Since his return to Equatorial Guinea in mid-1993 he had received threats of imprisonment.

The precise reasons for the present arrests are not known. Since the introduction of a multi-party political system in Equatorial Guinea in January 1992, hundreds of people have been arbitrarily arrested and detained for short periods of time for belonging to or supporting opposition parties. Elections were set for September 1993 and then postponed to December 1993 after opposition parties threatened to boycott the election because, among other things, the electoral law severely restricted their freedom to campaign. However, the authorities have refused to alter the law and in recent weeks the harassment and arrests of political activists has increased steeply.

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

- expressing concern about the reported death in custody of Pedro Motu Mamiaga, apparently as a result of torture;
- demanding a full and public judicial inquiry into the death of Pedro Motu Mamiaga

- international standards require that a judicial inquiry should be held "whenever the death ... of a detained or imprisoned person occurs during his detention or imprisonment" (United Nations Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment - 1988);

- asking the authorities to ensure that the body of Pedro Motu Mamiaga is returned to his family for burial;

- expressing concern about reports that Miguel Nsé Bacale is in a coma as a result of torture;

- calling for Miguel Nsé Bacale to receive immediate, independent, medical attention and access to his family;

- urging that the alleged torture of Miguel Nsé Bacale be immediately and thoroughly investigated, the findings made public and those responsible brought to justice.

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

Telegrams: Presidente Obiang Nguema, Malabo, República de Guinea Ecuatorial

Telexes: 5405 GBNOM 5405 EG

Faxes: + 240-9 3313

Salutation: Su Excelencia / Your Excellency

2) Prime Minister:

Silvestre Siale Bileka

Primer Ministro

Gabinete del Primer Ministro

Malabo, República de Guinea Ecuatorial

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

Telexes: 5405 GBNOM 5405 EG

Salutation: Excelentísimo Señor / Dear Prime Minister

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 5 October 1993.