EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 373/92 Fear of Extrajudicial Execution/Torture 27 November 1992

EQUATORIAL GUINEA: Alfredo Bijuán and 40 students

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of Alfredo Bijuán following reports from a variety of sources that the security forces are under instructions to kill him.

Alfredo Bijuán is a member of the <u>Union de Trabajadores y Estudiantes</u> (UTE), Workers and Students Union, in Bata, the capital Equatorial Guinea's mainland province of Río Muni. Although not a leader of the UTE, he was prominent in a student demonstration in Bata on 24 November 1992. He is reportedly in hiding. In recent days the security forces, who are accustomed to acting with impunity, are reported have carried out scores of arrests in various parts of the country. They are especially, but not exclusively, targeting anyone suspected of political dissent. At least one person has been arbitrarily killed by security personnel in the past week.

The student demonstration in Bata was reportedly peaceful. It was held outside the police headquarters but the precise purpose of the demonstration is not yet known to Amnesty International. Forty students were arrested. All were reported to have been tortured, some of them severely. They included one who was eight-months pregnant. The female students were said to have been made to dance naked in front of security officers. A male student became unconscious as a result of the torture. The 40 students were reportedly released from police custody in the evening of 26 November. Alfredo Bujián is still being sought by the police.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Equatorial Guinea became a multi-party state in January 1992 when laws permitting political parties and freedom of assembly and demonstration were passed. Previously the only party allowed was the ruling Partido Democrático de Guinea Ecuatorial (PDGE), Democratic Party of Equatorial Guinea. Under the law on freedom of assembly, official permission is required for any gathering of over 10 people and the organizers of the gatherings or demonstrations can be imprisoned for crimes committed by other participants. Despite the passage of these laws, throughout 1992 scores of people have been briefly detained in Equatorial Guinea for taking part in political meetings and in demonstrations.

Equatorial Guinea became party to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights in 1986 and to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in 1987.

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

- expressing concern about reports that the security forces are under instruction to find and kill Alfredo Bujián;
- urging the authorities to issue clear public instructions to the security forces that human rights violations such as arbitrary killings and torture of prisoners will not be tolerated;

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- expressing concern about reports that 40 students arrested on 24 November 1992, including several women one of whom was eight-months pregnant, were severely tortured in police custody;
- calling for a public inquiry into these reports and for anyone found to be responsible for torture to be brought to justice.

APPEALS TO:

1) President:

Su Exelencia

General de Brigada Teodoro Obiang Nguema

Presidente de la República

Gabinete del Presidente de la República

Malabo, República de Guinea Ecuatorial

Telegrams: Presidente Obiang Nguema, Malabo, República de

Guinea Ecuatorial

Salutation: Su Excelencia/Your Excellency

2) Minister of Justice and Religion:

Su Excelencia

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: Su Excelencia / Your Excellency

3) Minister of Foreign Affairs:

Su Excelencia

Benjamín Mba Ekua Mikó

Ministro de Asuntos Exteriores

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: Su Excelencia / Your Excellency

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 8 January 1993.