

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 118/94 (AFR 32/05/94, 24 March 1994) - Prisoners of Conscience/Legal Concern

KENYA: Four journalists of *The Standard* newspaper:

Ngumo wa KURIA, Bureau Chief, Nakuru
Peter Rianga MAKORI, journalist
Kamau KANYANGA, Managing editor
John NYAOSI, deputy Chief Sub-editor

On 31 March 1994 the four journalists named above, who are facing subversion charges, were all released on a bond of Sh100,000 with a surety of a similar amount. The case is due to be mentioned in court on 14 April 1994.

Amnesty International is increasingly concerned at the use of the legal process by the Government to apparently intimidate and harass the independent press in Kenya. Several other journalists have been arrested in recent weeks for attempting to investigate and report incidents of political violence.

Over recent months many journalists have been charged with sedition or other criminal charges and released on bail. However none have been tried and most charges have later been dropped and there is concern that the charges facing the four named above may follow this pattern.

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

- expressing concern at the arrests, possible trials and imprisonment of Ngumo wa Kuria, Peter Rianga Makori, Kamau Kanyanga and John Nyaosi solely on account of their reporting and publishing an alleged incident of political violence;
- appealing for the immediate withdrawal of all charges facing the four which appear to have been brought in relation to the legitimate pursuit of their profession;
- urging the authorities to put a stop to the emerging pattern of arrests of those attempting to investigate and report alleged incidents of political violence in the Rift Valley and Western Provinces;
- stating that if convicted on these charges Amnesty International believes the four journalists will be prisoners of conscience.

APPEALS TO:

1) His Excellency President Daniel arap Moi
Office of the President
P O Box 30510
Nairobi, Kenya
Telegrams: President Moi, Rais, Kenya
Telexes: 22003 FOREIGNRB or 22796 FOREIGNRB
Faxes: +254 2 337340
Salutation: Your Excellency

2) Mr Amos Wako
Attorney General
P O Box 40112

Nairobi, Kenya

Telegrams: Attorney General Wako, Sheria, Kenya

Faxes: +254 2 211082

Salutation: Dear Attorney General

3) Mr Shadrack M'Laaria Kiruki

Commissioner of Police

Kenya Police Headquarters

P O Box 30083

Nairobi, Kenya

Telegrams: Commissioner Kiruki, Police, Kenya

Salutation: Dear Police Commissioner

4) Mr Johnstone Makau

Minister of Information and Broadcasting

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

Jogoo House

PO Box 30025

Nairobi, Kenya

Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES TO

Mr Justice Fred Apaloo

Chief Justice

Law Courts

P O Box 30041

Nairobi, Kenya

Mr George Odiko

Secretary General,

Kenya Union of Journalists

PO Box 47035

Nairobi, Kenya

Law Society of Kenya

P O Box 72219

Nairobi, Kenya

and to diplomatic representatives of Kenya accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 19 May 1994.