

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AFR 36/17/92

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8 May 1992

*Please bring this action to the attention of the person in your section responsible for outreach work as it is felt that appeals from trade unions may be particularly effective.*

Further information on UA 114/92 (AFR 36/09/92, 6 April 1992) - and follow-ups AFR 36/10/92, 14 April 1992, and AFR 36/13/92, 30 April 1992 - Legal concern/fear of extrajudicial execution

**MALAWI: Chakufwa CHIHANA, aged 52, international trade union official**

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The Malawian authorities have failed to produce the imprisoned trade union leader Chakufwa Chihana in court, in defiance of a High Court ruling. They were required to produce him in the High Court in Lilongwe on 6 May 1992 in response to an application by his lawyer for a writ of *habeas corpus*. When he failed to appear the judge ordered the police to produce him at 9.00 am on 7 May 1992. This they again failed to do.

A crowd of more than 2000 supporters of Chakufwa Chihana, who advocates change from a one-party to a multi-party political system, had assembled outside the court. When it became clear that he was not in court they began a riotous protest, chanting "We want the brave one". Riots were already in progress in Blantyre, where police had fired upon striking workers and protesting students. A total of 38 deaths has been reported from Blantyre.

Amnesty International is seriously concerned for the welfare of Chakufwa Chihana and considers that his life may be in immediate danger. The organization is calling upon the Malawian Government to comply with the High Court and produce Chakufwa Chihana immediately.

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes and airmail letters**

- expressing Amnesty International's serious concern for the safety of Chakufwa Chihana;

- seeking information about his whereabouts and assurances that he is alive and well, and that he is allowed visits from his family and a lawyer of his choice;

- calling on the government to produce Chakufwa Chihana in court immediately in compliance with the order of the High Court;

- urging his immediate and unconditional release as a prisoner of conscience.

**APPEALS TO:**

1) H E The Life-President Ngwazi Dr H. Kamuzu Banda  
Office of the President and Cabinet  
P/Bag 301  
Lilongwe 3  
Malawi

**Telegrams: Life-President Banda, Lilongwe, Malawi**  
**Telexes: 44389 PRES MI; 44766 JUSTICE MI; 44113 EXTERNAL MI**  
**Faxes: + 265 731878**  
**[Salutation: Your Excellency]**

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2) Hon. F L Makuta  
Minister of Justice  
Ministry of Justice  
Private Bag 333  
Lilongwe 3  
Malawi

**Telegrams: Minister of Justice Makuta, Lilongwe, Malawi**  
**Telexes: 44766 JUSTICE MI**  
**[Salutation: Dear Minister]**

3) Hon. J Z U Tembo  
Minister of State in the Office of the President  
P/Bag 301  
Lilongwe 3  
Malawi

**Telegrams: Minister of State Tembo, Lilongwe, Malawi**  
**[Salutation: Dear Minister]**

4) Mr MacWilliam Lunguzi  
Inspector-General of Police  
P/Bag 305  
Lilongwe 3  
Malawi

**Telegrams: Inspector-General of Police, Lunguzi, Lilongwe, Malawi**  
**[Salutation: Dear Sir]**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

Malawi Law Society  
PO Box 1712  
Blantyre  
Malawi

Southern Africa Trade Union Co-ordination Council  
PO Box 1271  
Lilongwe  
Malawi

The Editor  
The Weekly Post  
Private Bag EF 352  
Lusaka  
Zambia

The Editor

The Weekend Gazette  
PO Box 66070  
Harare  
Zimbabwe

and to diplomatic representatives of MALAWI in your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat,  
or your section office, if sending appeals after 7 June 1992.