

PUBLIC

AI Index: AFR 44/07/00

THIS IS A LIMITED ACTION. PLEASE RESTRICT APPEALS TO FIVE PER SECTION.

19 April 2000

Further information on EXTRA 40/00 (AFR 44/05/00, 14 April 2000) - Fear of ill-treatment

NIGERIA  
Pastor Monday Gbonabe]  
Saturday Namon]  
Sunday Namon]  
Stephen Oomii] Arrested 11 April  
Friday Tenalo ]  
Pastor Deebari Zortee]  
Lucky Zorgbaa ]

Ledum Mitee, lawyer, former prisoner of conscience and President of the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (MOSOP), arrested 13 April 2000

Barinaadua Jungle Gbaraka, aged 18, shot dead by police

On 18 April 2000 Ledum Mitee, Saturday Namon and Lucky Zorgbaa were charged with arson and attempted arson in a Magistrate's Court in Port Harcourt, capital of Rivers State, and released on bail to await trial.

The charges are in connection with a police raid on K-Dere village on 11 April in Ogoniland, southeast Nigeria. Police officers were alleged to have shot dead a youth, Barinaadua Jungle Gbaraka, and, after at least eight officers were seriously injured, to have burned down homes, including that of Ledum Mitee. Arson and attempted arson are punishable by sentences of life imprisonment and 14 years' imprisonment respectively. No pleas were taken and the case was adjourned to May.

Ledum Mitee, lawyer, former prisoner of conscience and President of the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (MOSOP), has strongly denied the charges as politically-motivated. Saturday Namon and Lucky Zorgbaa were reportedly re-arrested by police after being released on bail but later the same day freed after negotiations.

The other Ogoni detainees arrested on 11 April are reportedly being held in harsh and cramped conditions. They are reported to have been beaten after being arrested and to have been denied medical treatment for their injuries. Under Nigeria's 1999 Constitution, they should have been charged or released within 24 hours of their arrest. Saturday Namon and Lucky Zorgbaa are reported to have been severely beaten by police in detention; their injuries were reportedly visible when they appeared in court.

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

- welcoming the release on bail of Ledum Mitee, Saturday Namon and Lucky Zorgbaa and urging that other residents of K-Dere arrested on 11 April who are still detained be released if they are not to be immediately charged and fairly tried, as required under the Constitution;
- urging that those still in custody be safeguarded from ill-treatment, held in conditions which conform to international standards and given necessary

medical treatment, and allowed full access to their lawyers, families and doctors;

- reiterating calls for a thorough and impartial investigation into the circumstances in which the police raided K-Dere on 11 April 2000, in order to identify those killed or injured and recommend whether any human rights violations or other unlawful acts should be investigated with a view to prosecution of those responsible.

**APPEALS TO:**

His Excellency Dr Peter Odili, State Governor, Government House  
91000 Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria

**Telegrams:Governor, Rivers State, Nigeria**

**Tel/fax: + 234 84 231323**

**Salutation:Your Excellency**

Commissioner for Justice, c/o Government House  
91000 Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria

**Telegrams:Commissioner Justice, Rivers State, Nigeria**

**Tel/fax: c/o State Governor +234 84 231323 (marked for attention Commissioner  
for Justice)**

**Salutation:Dear Commissioner**

Sir Kieran Z. Dudari, Commissioner of Police  
State Intelligence and Investigation Bureau (SIIB)  
State Police Command Headquarters  
Hospital Road, Port Harcourt, Nigeria

**Telegrams:Commissioner Police, Rivers State, Nigeria**

**Faxes:+ 234 84 233249 (marked for attention Commissioner of Police)**

**Salutation:Dear Commissioner of Police**

**COPIES TO:**

General (retired) David Jemibewon  
Minister for Police Affairs, New Federal Secretariat Complex  
Shehu Shagari Way, Central Area District  
Abuja, Federal Capital Territory, Nigeria

**Faxes:c/o Ministry of Foreign Affairs +234 9 523 0208 / 0394  
or c/o President's Press Office + 234 9 523 2136  
(marked for attention Minister of Police Affairs)**

**E-mails:president.obasanjo@nigeriagov.org  
(marked for attention Minister of Police Affairs)**

and to diplomatic representatives of Nigeria accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 20 May 2000.