

PUBLIC

AI Index: AFR 59/005/2003

17 April 2003

Further Information on UA 288/02 (AFR 59/004/2002, 20 September 2002) – Fear for safety/Fear of torture or ill-treatment/possible extrajudicial execution

UGANDA	Alex Otim, (m) Chairperson of Uganda Young Democrats (UYD) in		
Gulu] Released		
	Joseph Odong (m), UYD member in Gulu]
	David Pennytoo, (m) Secretary of UYD in Gulu		
	Lawrence Lukwiya (m), Speaker of UYD in Gulu (note amended name)		
	Tony Kitara (m), Publicity Secretary of UYD in Gulu		
	Aida Lagulu (f)]	
	George Obita (m)]	
	Francis Onen (m)]	
	Martine Ojara (m)]	
	Alex Okwero Wat (m)]	
	Charles Picha (m)]	
	Justo Ojwiya (m)]	All members of UYD,
Gulu	Paul Akuch Okot (m)]	
	Michael Lakony (m)]	
	Federico Ocan (m)]	
	Bosco Oti (m)]	
	Moses Atuku Akena (m)]	
	George Abedo (m)]	
	Michael Lakoyo (m)]	
Dead:	Peter Oloya, (m)]	
New name:	Stephen Olanya, (m) member of UYD in Gulu, former Mayoral		
candidate			

The members of the Uganda Young Democrats (UYD) named above were transferred from military custody in Gulu municipality, northern Uganda to Kigo prison in the capital Kampala on 14 November 2002.

They remain in detention on charges of treason, though they have not yet been tried. The authorities have now granted them access to their relatives and lawyers and they are held in conditions which are reportedly better than those in the military barracks where they

were previously detained. They claim that they were tortured by security agents at the military barracks.

Two other prisoners, Alex Otim and Joseph Odong were released and charges against them were dropped around November 2002. However, they remain at risk of being rearrested by security agents in Gulu.

In February 2003, the High Court of Uganda ordered that the body of Peter Oloya, who was reportedly shot by soldiers of the Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) in Gulu Central Prison in September 2002, should be released to his family for burial. However, this order has not yet been implemented. The High Court also ordered that the State "pays to each of the surviving prisoners the sum of Uganda Shillings 10,000,000 (about \$5,200) for the violation of their personal liberty and freedom from torture, cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment". To Amnesty International's knowledge, none of the prisoners has yet received this payment.

The 21 detainees were all officials and members of the UYD, the youth wing of the opposition Democratic Party. They had all campaigned on behalf of the Democratic Party during the local government elections in Gulu in March 2002. They were held incommunicado for two months in a military barracks by the UPDF on treason and murder charges. Amnesty International believes that the charges against them are politically motivated.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in English or your own language:

- welcoming the return of the prisoners to a recognized prison;
- welcoming the release of Joseph Odong, and the dropping of charges against them;
- expressing concern that the order of the High Court of Uganda in Gulu dated 14 February 2003, ordering the payment of Uganda Shillings 10,000,000 to the surviving prisoners has not been carried out;
- calling for the immediate release of Peter Oloya's body so that an independent inquest into his death may be immediately conducted;
- calling on the authorities to drop the treason charges against the 18 surviving prisoners;
- calling for immediate, impartial and thorough investigation of the allegations of torture inflicted on the 20 prisoners while in military barracks in Gulu;
- urging the authorities to ensure that the results of the investigations into the death of Peter Oloya and the allegations of torture are made public, and the army officers responsible are brought to justice.

APPEALS TO:

President Yoweri Museveni
President of the Republic of Uganda
Office of the President
Parliament Buildings
PO Box 7168
Kampala, Uganda

Telegram: President Museveni, Kampala, Uganda

Fax: + 256 41 235459 / 346102

Salutation: Your Excellency

Hon. Francis J. Ayume
Attorney General
Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs
P.O.Box 7183
Kampala, Uganda
Telegram: Attorney General, Kampala, Uganda
Fax: + 256 41 254829
Salutation: Dear Sir

Hon. Amama Mbabazi
Minister of Defence
Ministry of Defence, Bombo
P.O.Box 7069,
Kampala, Uganda
Telegram: Minister of Defence, Kampala, Uganda
Fax: + 256 41 254829 (via Ministry of Justice)
Salutation: Dear Minister

Major-General James Kazini
Army Commander
Armed Forces Headquarters
P.O.Box 7069
Kampala, Uganda
Telegram: Army Commander, Armed Forces Headquarters, Kampala, Uganda
Salutation: Dear Major-General

COPIES TO: diplomatic representatives of Uganda accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 29 May 2003.