

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AFR 17/02/92

Distr: UA/SC

31 January 1992

Further information on UA 08/92 (AFR 17/01/92, 8 January 1992)

Torture/Legal Concern

CAMEROON Jean-Michel NINTCHEU, publisher and opposition leader,
 Emmanuel WATO, computer technician and opposition leader,

and new names: Tafou MARTIN, businessman
 Feuneu FEUZING, trader

Jean-Michel Nintcheu and Emmanuel Wato, members of a banned human rights organization, CAP Liberté, remain in detention without charge or trial following their arrest in Douala on 3 January 1992. Five employees of Jean-Michel Nintcheu, also arrested on 3 January 1992, are believed to have been released without charge.

Two other members of CAP Liberté are now known to have been arrested and to be still held without charge. Feuneu Feuzing, a trader and local organizer of CAP Liberté, was arrested on 3 January 1992 in the central market of Douala, where he works. Tafou Martin, a businessman and acting Secretary General of CAP Liberté, was arrested in Douala on 23 January 1992.

None of the four who remain in detention have been formally charged, but they have apparently been accused of continuing the activities of a banned organization and incitement to violence. They appear to be detained illegally, since the authorities have unlimited power of detention only in cases of banditry. They should have been brought promptly before a judicial authority and formally remanded in custody or released. All four men are being held at the Commissariat du premier arrondissement (First district police station) in Douala, where they are reportedly allowed regular visits from their lawyer.

Jean-Michel Nintcheu is apparently still in poor health as a result of torture at the time of his arrest. He ended a hunger-strike in protest at his ill-treatment when he was allowed hospital treatment recommended by a doctor. According to reports, he is being taken to hospital every day for treatment for poor circulation caused by the severe beating which he received, particularly on the soles of his feet.

Amnesty International believes that the four named above are prisoners of conscience, who are being detained solely because of their non-violent opposition to the government, and is calling for their immediate and unconditional release.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:

- expressing concern at the continued and apparently unlawful detention without charge or trial of Jean-Michel Nintcheu, Emmanuel Wato, Tafou Martin and Feuneu Feuzing;
- expressing concern at the reports of torture of Jean-Michel Nintcheu and Emmanuel Wato, and urging that an independent inquiry be established, with a view to bringing to justice any official responsible for torturing or ill-treating these prisoners;
- appealing for them to be treated humanely in custody and allowed regular access to their families, legal representatives and medical doctors;
- calling for their immediate and unconditional release as prisoners of conscience, who have been detained solely because of their non-violent opposition to the government.

APPEALS TO:

1) President

Son Excellence

Monsieur Paul Biya

Président de la République

Palais de la Présidence

1000 Yaoundé, Cameroon

**Telexes: 8207 PRESID KN; 8230 PRESID2 KN or
8595 PRESID B KN**

Telegrams: President Biya, Yaounde, Cameroon

Faxes: + 237 22 08 70

Salutation : Monsieur le Président de la République / Dear President

2) Prime Minister:

M. Sadou Hayatou

Premier Ministre

Palais de la Présidence

1000 Yaoundé

Cameroon

Telegrams: Premier Ministre Hayatou, Yaounde, Cameroon

Faxes: + 237 23 57 65

Salutation : Monsieur le Premier Ministre / Dear Prime Minister

3) Minister of Internal Affairs:

Monsieur Gilbert Andzé Tsoungui

Ministre de l'Administration territoriale

Ministère de l'Administration territoriale

1000 Yaoundé 4, Cameroon

Telegrams: Ministre Tsoungui, Yaounde, Cameroon

Telexes: 8503 MINAT KN; 8268 MINAT KN

Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Dear Minister

4) Director of National Security:

Monsieur Jean Fochivé

Directeur de la Sûreté nationale

Centre national d'études et de recherches

Yaoundé, Cameroon

Telegrams: Directeur Surete nationale Fochive, Yaounde, Cameroon

Telexes: 8383 CNER KN

Salutation: Monsieur le Directeur /Dear Director

COPIES TO:

Minister of Foreign Affairs:

M. Jacques-Roger Booh Booh

Ministre des Affaires étrangères

Ministère des Affaires étrangères

1000 Yaoundé 4, Cameroon

and the following newspapers:

Le Messenger, BP 5925, Douala, Cameroon

La Gazette, BP 5485, Douala, Cameroon

Le Mont Cameroun, BP 3979, Douala, Cameroon

Cameroon Tribune, BP 1218, Yaoundé, Cameroon

and to diplomatic representatives of Cameroon in your country

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 13 March 1992.