

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 459/90 (AFR 19/07/90, 14 November 1990) and follow-up AFR 19/02/91 (2 April 1991) - Legal Concern

CENTRAL AFRICAN Thomas Koazo, journalist and former REPUBLIC:
 prisoner of conscience 1986-89
 General Thimothée Malendoma
 Godefroy Mokamanede
 Tobie N'Garagba, accounts clerk
 Simon Sakebede

 and others

The five people named above were among several dozen untried political detainees and others serving prison sentences who were released in April 1991 following a presidential amnesty issued on 23 April 1991. The five people had been arrested in the capital, Bangui, between 13 and 17 October 1990 after calling for a national conference to discuss multi-party democracy. They held a public meeting on 13 October to discuss the organization of such a conference. The peaceful meeting was dispersed by the security forces, provoking demonstrations and riots which continued until 15 October, leaving several dozen people injured. None of those arrested is believed to have been involved in acts of violence. Amnesty International believed them to be prisoners of conscience, detained because they peacefully exercised their political rights.

In February 1991, they appeared before examining magistrate of the *Haute cour de Justice*, High Court and were charged under articles 77 and 185 of the Penal Code. They were due to be brought to trial on charges of using banners carrying slogans likely to encourage people to endanger public security and holding an illegal meeting which led to violent acts.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: If possible, could participants send additional airmail letters to the authorities welcoming the news of these releases.

APPEALS TO:

Son Excellence
Général d'Armée André KOLINGBA
Président de la République
Palais de la Renaissance
Bangui
République centrafricaine

Monsieur Edouard FRANK
Premier Ministre et Chef du Gouvernement
Palais de la Renaissance
Bangui
République centrafricaine

Monsieur Jean KPWOKA
Ministre de la Justice et Garde des Sceaux
Ministère de la Justice
Bangui

République centrafricaine

COPIES TO:

Monsieur Christophe GRELOMBE
Conseiller en matières de la Defense au Président
de la République
Présidence de la République
Palais de la Renaissance
Bangui
République centrafricaine

Monsieur Laurent GOMINA-PAMPALI
Ministre des Affaires étrangères
Ministère des Affaires étrangères
BP 936
Bangui
République centrafricaine

Monsieur Ismaila NIMAGA
Ministre de la Sécurité publique
et de l'Administration du territoire
Ministère de l'Administration du territoire
Bangui
République centrafricaine

and to diplomatic representatives of the Central African republic in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 12 June 1991.