

EXTERNAL

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Torture / Legal concern

21 March 1996

EQUATORIAL GUINEA Amancio Gabriel Nse

Amancio Gabriel Nse was arrested on 18 March 1996 at a checkpoint outside Niefang, in the Centro-Sur province of the mainland region of Río Muni. Amnesty International believes that this leading member of the regional committee of the *Convergencia para la Democracia Social* (CPDS), Convergence for Social Democracy, party in Río Muni, has been detained solely on account of his non-violent political activity. The organization has received reports that he has been tortured in incommunicado police custody, and fears that he remains at risk of further torture.

On 16 March, Amancio Gabriel Nse and another CPDS member, Pedro Ndong Mbale, had been stopped at the same checkpoint as they were travelling to their village in the south of Río Muni. On that occasion CPDS documents, including letters from the national to the regional executive, were confiscated from them. When they returned via the checkpoint two days later, the two men were arrested, apparently because of one of the confiscated letters, which advised the party regional executive of the need to change CPDS strategy now that the presidential elections were over.

Amancio Gabriel Nse and Pedro Ndong Mbale spent the first night of their detention at the police station in Niefang, during which time Amancio Gabriel Nse was allegedly subjected to threats and verbal abuse. The next day, 19 March, the two men were taken to Bata, the capital of Río Muni, about 90 kilometres from Niefang. Initially, they were held at the central military barracks there. Pedro Ndong Mbale was then released. At 9pm Amancio Gabriel Nse was transferred to Bata prison. On 20 March at 7am he was taken back to the military barracks, for a meeting with the inspector general of the armed forces. Five hours later he was taken to the police station where he still remains. Latest reports indicate that he is being kept, shackled, in a very small cell.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Presidential elections were held in Equatorial Guinea on 25 February 1996, several months before the President's mandate expired. They were won overwhelmingly by the incumbent President, Teodoro Obiang Nguema. The *Plataforma de Oposición Conjunta* (POC) Joint Opposition Platform, of which the CPDS is a member, boycotted the elections after the POC was arbitrarily dissolved by the electoral commission, which is composed of government officials only, and the POC's candidate, Amancio Gabriel Nse, was disqualified. Dozens of people, particularly members of parties in the POC, were arrested and ill-treated in the run-up to the elections.

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

- expressing concern at the arbitrary arrest of Amancio Gabriel Nse, detained for his non-violent political activities;
- urging that he be immediately and unconditionally released;
- expressing concern at reports that he has been subjected to torture and that he is being kept in shackles;
- calling for him to have immediate access to his family, lawyer and medical care;
- calling for those responsible for any torture to be brought to justice.

APPEALS TO:

1. President

Teodoro Obiang Nguema
Presidente de la República
Gabinete del Presidente de la República
Malabo, República de Guinea Ecuatorial

Faxes: + 2409 3313

Telexes: 5405 GBNOM 5405 EG

Telegrams: Presidente Nguema, Malabo, Equatorial Guinea

Salutation: Su Excelencia / Your Excellency

2. Minister of Justice

Francisco Javier Ndongo Mbengono
Ministro de Justicia y Culto
Ministerio de Justicia y Culto
Malabo, República de Guinea Ecuatorial

Telegrams: Ministro de Justicia, Malabo, Guinea Ecuatorial

Telexes: 5405 GBNOM 5405 EG

Salutation: Excelentísimo Señor / Dear Minister

3. Minister of Interior

Julio Ndong Ela Mangué
Ministro del Interior
Ministerio del Interior
Malabo, República de Guinea Ecuatorial

Telegrams: Ministro de Interior, Malabo, Guinea Ecuatorial

Telexes: 5405 GBNOM 5405 EG

Salutation: Excelentísimo Señor / Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

Foreign Minister

Miguel Oyono Ndong Mifumu
Ministro de Asuntos Exteriores y Cooperación
Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores
Malabo, República de Guinea Ecuatorial

Faxes: + 2409 2320

and to diplomatic representatives of Equatorial Guinea accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 8 May 1996.