

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AFR 24/06/93
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Date: 19 July 1993

MEDICAL CONCERN

**Federico Nsono Eyenga, Laurentino Jesus Nsué and a third person
EQUATORIAL GUINEA**

Amnesty International is concerned by the ill-treatment of Federico Nsono Eyenga, Laurentino Jesus Nsué and a third un-named man who were badly beaten in police custody in early July 1993. All suffered serious injuries, with Federico Nsono Eyenga and the third man requiring admission to hospital.

The men work as industrial engineers with CEGESA (*Compania Electrica de Guinea Ecuatorial*), the national electricity company. They were responsible for the electricity supply to the area of Malabo where the *Camara de Representantes del Pueblo* (Chamber of Peoples' Representatives - Equatorial Guinea's parliament) is situated. On 2 July 1993, when President Obiang Mbasogo was about to make a speech, the electricity supply to the parliament building failed. (Power cuts are very frequent in Malabo.) The three were arrested and accused of deliberately cutting the power supply in order to prevent the President from making his speech.

They were taken to the police station where all are reported to have been very badly beaten. As a result, Laurentino Jesus Nsué suffered a broken nose and multiple bruising. Federico Nsono Eyenga, who was reportedly beaten on the head, began to have convulsions and was taken to hospital where he remained for several days. He also sustained multiple bruising to the body. The third man arrested with them was also hospitalized, although no details of his injuries are currently available.

The three were released without charge after it was found that the cause of the power failure had been traced to the hydro-electrical complex at Riaba, some 40 km from Malabo.

BACKGROUND

In January 1992 Equatorial Guinea introduced a multi-party system when laws permitting political parties and freedom of assembly and demonstration were passed. Prior to this only one political party was allowed in the country - the ruling *Partido Democrático de Guinea Ecuatorial* (Democratic Party of Equatorial Guinea). Despite the passage of laws permitting a multi-party system, the laws contained a number of restrictions on political gatherings. The law on freedom of assembly, for example, required that advance official permission was obtained for any gathering of over 10 people and provided that those organizing such meetings or demonstrations were to be held accountable for the actions of those present.

On 31 March 1993 the government and 10 opposition parties signed a National Pact whereby the government committed itself to revising all the laws passed in 1992 in consultation with representatives from the opposition parties. This, however, has yet to take place and

although, in theory, permission is no longer required for political gatherings of any size, the authorities continue to exercise control over such gatherings.

Since the introduction of a multi-party system in Equatorial Guinea, hundreds of people have been briefly detained for taking part in political meetings and demonstrations and most are reported to have been tortured or ill-treated. Despite promises from the government that human rights would be respected, in practice the detention of government opponents and those suspected of opposition sympathies continues.

Amnesty International knows of three other people who were arrested for political reasons in late June and early July.

Amnesty International is renewing calls to the authorities to put a stop the detention of those critical of, or suspected of criticism of, government policies. For many years it has been calling for an end to torture. The government has ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, but has not introduced legal or practical safeguards against arbitrary arrest or torture.

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To: Medical professionals
From: Medical Office / Research Department - Africa
Date: 19 July 1993

MEDICAL LETTER WRITING ACTION

**Federico Nsono Eyenga, Laurentino Jesus Nsué and a third person
EQUATORIAL GUINEA**

Keywords

Theme: Ill-treatment/ ill-health

Summary

Please see the brief details attached about Federico Nsono Eyenga, Laurentino Jesus Nsué and a third person who were badly beaten following their arrest for political reasons in July 1993.

Recommended Actions

Letters are requested from medical professionals to the addresses indicated below. Where possible, please send appeals in Spanish or French:

- expressing concern about the arbitrary arrest of Federico Nsono Eyenga, Laurentino Jesus Nsué and a third man on 2 July 1993 and about their reported beating in police custody which resulted in all three sustaining considerable injuries
- noting reports that Federico Nsono Eyenga and a second person were admitted to hospital, the former after suffering convulsions consequent to beating on the head
- urging that there is an inquiry into their ill-treatment in police custody in order to identify those responsible for their injuries and calling on the government to take measures to end such abuse of detainees

APPEALS TO

1) President
Su Excelencia
General de Brigada Teodoro Obiang Nguema
Presidente de la República
Gabinete del Presidente de la República
Malabo, República de Guinea Ecuatorial

2) Minister of Justice and Religion

Su Excelencia

Mariano Nsué Nguema

Ministro de Justicia y Culto

Ministerio de Justicia y Culto

Malabo, República de Guinea Ecuatorial

3) Minister of Foreign Affairs

Su Excelencia

Benjamín Mba Ekua Mikó

Ministro de Asuntos Exteriores

Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores

Malabo, República de Guinea Ecuatorial

Fax: + 240-9 2320

Telex: 5405 GBNOM 5405 EG

Note: Faxes and telexes for the President and Minister of Justice could be sent to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with the message *Por favor remitir a* (Please forward to)

Copies of your appeals should be sent to the Equatorial Guinean Embassy in your country if there is one.