

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AFR 24/06/97

UA 316/97

Death penalty

6 October 1997

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

Matías Evung

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Matías Evung was sentenced to death on 2 October 1997 after being found guilty of a ritual murder. He was accused of removing the eyes, tongue, ears and genitals of a 10-year-old girl he had abducted. He was tried in Bata, the capital of Equatorial Guinea's mainland region of Río Muni.

According to official figures, at least 17 ritual murders have been committed in Equatorial Guinea since the beginning of August 1997. The government-owned radio is reported to have said that the death sentence was meant to discourage further killings.

As far as Amnesty International is aware, the last execution in Equatorial Guinea was carried out in December 1995.

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

- acknowledging the horrific nature of the crime for which Matías Evung has been convicted, but expressing absolute opposition to the death penalty on the grounds that it violates the right to life as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
- stressing that the death penalty has never been shown to be an effective deterrent to violent crime, and is brutalizing to all involved in its application;
- calling on the authorities to grant clemency to Matías Evung and to commute his death sentence to a more humane punishment.

**APPEALS TO**

1. Presidente

Teodoro Obiang Nguema  
Presidente de la República  
Gabinete del Presidente de la República  
Malabo, República de Guinea Ecuatorial  
**Faxes: + 240 9 33 13**  
**Telexes: 5405 GBNOM 5405 EG**  
**Telegrams: Presidente Nguema, Malabo, Guinea Ecuatorial**  
**Salutation: Su Excelencia / Your Excellency**

2. Minister of Justice

Sr Ignacio Milan Tang  
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 y Cooperación

Malabo, República de Guinea Ecuatorial

**Faxes: + 240 9 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 23 November 1997.