

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 199/92 (AFR 24/08/92, 15 June 1992) - Arrest of possible prisoner of conscience/fear of ill-treatment

EQUATORIAL GUINEA: Pilar Mañana (female)

and new name: Cecilia Bechipo Bolope (female)

Amnesty International has received further information about the case of Pilar Mañana and has also learnt the name of another woman who was arrested with her - Cecilia Bechipo Bolope. They remain in detention without charge. Pilar Mañana is said to suffer from hypertension and obesity and is now in hospital.

Following their arrest on 10 June 1992, Pilar Mañana and Cecilia Bechipo Bolope were detained at Malabo's main police station until Saturday 13 June when they were released and ordered to appear in court the following Monday 15 June to be charged. According to the information, after waiting all day in court they were taken to prison still uncharged. Pilar Mañana fell ill during the night and was taken to hospital the following day where she remains under guard. Cecilia Bechipo Bolope remains in prison.

Neither of the women appear to have been tortured or ill-treated. However, Pilar Mañana and her 16-years-old daughter were allegedly roughly-handled by the police officers when Pilar Mañana was arrested.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/airmail letters:

- expressing concern that both Pilar Mañana and Cecilia Bechipo Bolope were arrested on 10 June 1992, apparently solely for exercising their right to free expression of their political views as guaranteed by Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and Article 13 (b) of the Equatorial Guinea Constitution approved in November 1991 and for their friendship and family ties with members of opposition parties;

- expressing concern that, as no steps have yet been taken to end the practice of torture in Equatorial Guinea, they are a risk of being tortured or ill-treated in custody, and requesting assurances that they are being treated humanely in custody and allowed regular visits by relations and defence counsel of their choosing;

- expressing concern about the state of health of Pilar Mañana and urging the authorities to ensure that she gets appropriate medical treatment;

- urging the authorities to release her on medical grounds;

- urging that if, as Amnesty International believes, both Pilar Mañana and Cecilia Bechipo Bolope were arrested for exercising their right to freedom of expression, they should be released immediately and unconditionally.

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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

Telegrams: Presidente Obiang Nguema Malabo, República de Ecuatorial

Guinea

Salutation: Su Excelencia / Your Excellency

2) Minister of Justice and Religion:

Su Excelencia

Mariano Nsúé Nguema

Ministro de Justicia y Culto

Ministerio de Justicia y Culto

Malabo

República de Guinea Ecuatorial

Telegrams: Ministro de Justicia Nsúé Nguema Malabo, República de Guinea Ecuatorial

Telexes: 5405 GBNOM 5405 EG

Salutation: Su Excelencia / Your Excellency

3) Minister of Foreign Affairs:

Su Excelencia

Benjamín Mbá Ekua Mikó

Ministro de Asuntos Exteriores

Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores

Malabo

República de Guinea Ecuatorial

Telegrams: Ministro de Asuntos Exteriores Mbá Ekua Malabo, República de Guinea Ecuatorial

Telexes: 5405 GBNOM 5405 EG

Salutation: Su Excelencia / Your Excellency

and to diplomatic representatives of Equatorial Guinea in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section, if sending appeals after 4 August 1992.