

**EXTERNAL (for general distribution)**

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**Torture/Death Threats**

**7 September 1993**

**EQUATORIAL GUINEA: Tobías Obiang Nguema (ex army lieutenant)**

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Amnesty International is concerned about the reported re-arrest and torture of Tobías Obiang Nguema on 3 September 1993 in Ebebiyín, in the northeast of Equatorial Guinea's mainland province of Río Muni. Following his arrest he was transferred to Malabo, the capital on Bioko island, where he continues to be subjected to severe torture and to threats against his life. Amnesty International is concerned for his safety in view of recent deaths in custody as a result of torture both in Malabo and in Río Muni.

Tobías Obiang Nguema, a former lieutenant in the army, is apparently being held at the police headquarters in Malabo. Immediately after his arrival in Malabo, he was reportedly taken for interrogation to the military barracks situated in the grounds of the Presidency. He was severely tortured and threatened with death unless he signed a confession implicating himself and Pedro Motu Mamiaga - another former military officer who died in police custody on 22 August 1993 - in an attempt to overthrow the government.

Tobías Obiang Nguema had been imprisoned on several occasions before. He was last arrested between 9 and 13 August 1993 in Malabo and sent to Bata, the capital of Río Muni, where he was held at a police station for a number of days. He was brutally tortured prior to being confined to his town of origin, Ebebiyín, from where he was taken on 3 September. Over a dozen former military officers were also arrested between 9 and 13 August and sent to their villages in Río Muni. Some of those have not been seen since.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Since December 1991, when a multi-party political system was introduced in Equatorial Guinea, members of opposition parties have faced continuous harassment and repeated short-term arrests. Persecution of political opponents increased sharply following the announcement of the first multi-party elections in Equatorial Guinea set, initially, for 12 September 1993 and now postponed until 21 November 1993. Opposition parties said they would boycott elections on the grounds that the electoral law is seriously flawed. This coincided with the departure of a large contingent of Moroccan troops which had been seconded to Equatorial Guinea under the terms of a bi-lateral agreement with the Kingdom of Morocco.

Many of those arrested recently have been severely tortured. At least two people died in custody in Malabo in August 1993 after being tortured and two others were extrajudicially executed on Annobon island. There have been other recent reports of deaths in custody elsewhere in the country. A number of government opponents, fearing arrest, have gone into hiding.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters either in Portuguese, English or in your own language:**

- expressing concern about the imprisonment and torture of Tobias Obiang Nguema who, on 3 September 1993, was taken to Malabo from Ebebiyín, where he had been confined in mid-August following his arrest;
- expressing concern at reports that he continues to be subjected to severe torture;
- expressing concern at reports that he has been threatened with death unless he signs a confession stating he was involved in a plot to overthrow the government;
- asking that all reports of torture be thoroughly investigated, the results made public and that those responsible be brought to justice;
- pointing out that the authorities are responsible for ensuring the safety of Tobias Obiang Nguema in custody and that they would be held responsible for any attempt against his life;
- urging that he immediately be allowed to receive visits from his relatives and medical personnel;
- urging that unless he is charged with a recognizably criminal offence he be immediately and unconditionally released.

**APPEALS TO**

1) President

Coronel Obiang Nguema Mbasogo  
Presidente de la República  
Ministro de Defensa Nacional  
Gabinete del Presidente de la República,  
Malabo, República de Guinea Ecuatorial  
**Telegrams: Presidente Obiang Nguema, Malabo, República  
de Guinea Ecuatorial**  
**Telexes: 5405 GBNOM 5405 EG**  
**Faxes: + 240-9 3313**  
**Salutation: Su Excelencia/Your Excellency**

2) Prime Minister

Silvestre Siale Bileka  
Primer Ministro  
Gabinete del Primer Ministro  
Malabo, República de Guinea Ecuatorial  
**Telegrams: Primer Ministro Siale Bileka, Malabo,  
República de Guinea Ecuatorial**  
**Telexes: 5405 GBNOM 5405 EG**  
**Salutation: Excelentísimo Señor/Dear Prime Minister**

3) Minister of Justice and Religion

Mariano Nsué Nguema  
Ministro de Justicia y Culto  
Ministerio de Justicia y Culto  
Malabo, República de Guinea Ecuatorial

**Telegrams: Ministro de Justicia Nsué Nguema Malabo,  
República de Guinea Ecuatorial**

**Telexes: 5405 GBNOM 5405 EG**

**Salutation: Excelentísimo Señor/Dear Minister**

4) Foreign Minister

Benjamín Mba Ekua Mikó

Ministro de Asuntos Exteriores & Francofonía

Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores

Malabo, República de Guinea Ecuatorial

**Telegrams: Ministro de Asuntos Exteriores Mba Ekua,  
Malabo, República de Guinea**

**Ecuatorial**

**Telexes: 5405 GBNOM 5405 EG**

**Faxes: + 240-9 2320**

**Salutation: Excelentísimo Señor/Dear Minister**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS 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 19 October 1993.