

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 77/92 (AFR 31/02/92 of 5 March 1992) - Legal Concern

Côte d'Ivoire:

Adou Jean-François

Aka Kouassi

Akassi Thomas

Kalifa Touré, aged 33, an engineer, journalist and member of the Front Populaire ivoirien (FPI), the Ivorian Popular Front

Quattara Lancina

Teha Emmanuel

and at least 109 others

During February there were two demonstrations against the government in the capital, Abidjan. The demonstrations criticized the government's refusal to act on the findings of a Commission of Inquiry into an apparently punitive raid launched by the army on Abidjan University's Yopougon student residence on 17 May 1991, which followed confrontation between students and the security forces. The demonstrations started peacefully, but later on there were violent attacks by some marchers.

The *instruction*, judicial investigation, has begun into many other cases of people held since the February demonstrations. On 13 April 52 people were released without charge, but 53 including Kalifa Touré are still held at Yopougon prison awaiting trial. They are not known to have been charged with any criminal offence. This prolonged period of detention without charge (*garde à vue*) contravenes Ivoirian law, which stipulates that an initial period of 48 hours in custody of the security forces can only be prolonged for a further 48 hours on the decision of the State Prosecutor (*Procureur de la République*). The status of the others named above is not known to Amnesty International.

Please see UA 60/92 (AFR 31/01/92 of 19 February) and follow-ups AFR 31/03/92 of 10 March 1992 and AFR 31/04/92 of 24 April 1992 for further information about prisoners convicted in the context of these demonstrations.

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

- welcoming the release of 52 prisoners, but inquire about the legal basis for detention of the 53 people, including Kalifa Touré, held without charge at Yopougon prison, since their arrest in February 1992;

- expressing concern that many detainees could be prisoners of conscience and

urging the authorities that any prisoners held on account of their non-violent political activities should be released immediately and unconditionally;

- urging the government to release these prisoners if they are not to be charged promptly with recognizably criminal offences and given a fair and public trial within a reasonable time.

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APPEALS TO

1) President:

Son Excellence

Monsieur le Président / Dear President

Felix Houphouët-Boigny

Président de la République

La Présidence

Boulevard Clozel, Abidjan

République de Côte d'Ivoire

Telegrams: President Houphouët-Boigny, Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire

Telexes: 23754 PRESID CI or 23169 PRELIT CI

2) Prime Minister:

M. Alassane Ouattara

Monsieur le Premier Ministre /

Premier Ministre

Dear Prime Minister

Le Primature

Abidjan

République de Côte D'Ivoire

Telegrams: Premier Ministre, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

3) Minister of Justice:

Mme Jacqueline Lohoues-Oble

Madame le Ministre /

Ministre de la Justice

Dear Minister

Ministère de la Justice

Boulevard Angoulvant

BP V107, Abidjan

République de Côte d'Ivoire

Telegrams: Ministre Justice, Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire

Telexes: 23752 MINAFET CI (via Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

4) Minister of Interieur:

M. Emile-Constant Bombet

Monsieur le Ministre /

Ministre de l'Intérieur et de la Sécurité

Dear Minister

Ministère de l'Intérieur et de la Sécurité

Boulevard Angoulvant

Abidjan

République de Côte d'Ivoire

Telegrams: Ministre Interieur, Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO: diplomatic representatives of Côte d'Ivoire in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 5 June 1992.