

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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**Further information on UA 74/92 (AFR 32/04/92, 5 March 1992) - III-
Treatment of Peaceful Demonstrators**

**KENYA: Wangari Maathai (female), environmental activist,
and several other women hunger-strikers**

The Kenyan police have taken no further action against Professor Wangari Maathai and the three other women hunger-strikers, who were beaten unconscious by riot police in Nairobi on 3 March 1992. They recovered quickly and left hospital after a short period. They had been beaten during a peaceful demonstration for the release of political prisoners.

"The Mothers' Hunger-Strike", as it is known, is continuing indefinitely on a "human chain" basis in All Saints Cathedral in Nairobi, with other women taking the place of those unable to continue.

Twelve political prisoners also went on hunger-strike for two days in prison on 2 March 1992, in support of the women hunger-strikers. They included Koigi wa Wamwere, a former member of parliament and political exile, and Mirugi Kariuki and Rumba Kinuthia, both lawyers, who were charged with treason in October 1990 and are in solitary confinement in Kamiti Prison near Nairobi.

Amnesty International has called for an independent investigation into the police brutality but has yet to receive a response from the Kenyan Government.

With regard to the political prisoners, Amnesty International has requested an independent and impartial judicial review of the cases of all people currently serving prison terms for political offences and has called for the immediate release of any people imprisoned solely for the peaceful expression of their opinions. It is investigating the cases of those awaiting trial and concerned at reports that they were tortured to make false confessions. The organisation also fears that they may not receive a fair trial.

Thank you to all those who sent appeals on behalf of the hunger-strikers. No further action is requested at this stage.