

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AFR 32/08/93

Distr: UA/SC

11 March 1993

Further information on UA 38/93 (AFR 32/05/93, 15 February 1993) and follow-up AFR 32/05/93 of 2 March 1993 - Fear of ill-treatment/legal concern

KENYA: Njehu Gatabaki, journalist
The Reverend Jamlick Miano, journalist
Peter Ndekei Kihumba, journalist

The Reverend Jamlick Miano and Peter Ndekei Kihumba, editors of The Watchman magazine, who were arrested in Nairobi on 16 February 1993, have been released on bail. They were charged with publishing a seditious publication, but no date has been set for the trial.

This brings to a total of 13 the number of journalists currently facing sedition charges in Kenya for publishing criticisms of the government and President Moi, for which they could be imprisoned for ten years. They are free on bail but have to report to courts in Nairobi or Mombasa every two weeks. They include Pius Nyamora, editor of Society magazine, and his wife Loyce Nyamora, an accountant for the magazine; and Blamuel Njururi, editor of The Nairobi Weekly Observer. No dates have been set for the trials.

Amnesty International remains concerned that several previous sedition trials in Kenya have led to unfair convictions and the imprisonment of prisoners of conscience.

Correction: a reference in the original Urgent Action background to an instruction by the Chief Justice to magistrates not to grant bail concerned only the charge of possession of illegal firearms, not sedition.

No further action by Urgent Action participants is requested on these cases.
Thank you to all those who have sent appeals.