

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on 196/92 (AFR 36/25/92, 12 June 1992) - Legal concern/fear of torture

MALAWI: Egbert CHIWAMBO, polytechnic lecturer (freed)  
Ismael KHANI, businessperson  
Winfrey Yonam MPHANDE, employee of National Bank of Malawi  
Charles Kabubi MKANDAWIRE, employee of Marie Stopes  
International (birth control organization)

new names: 19 others, all employees of the National Bank of Malawi:

MITINDA  
Victoria CHIRWA (female)  
Constance MHONE (female)  
Vaida KALUWA (female)  
J. MISOMALI (female)  
B. JEREMIA  
KAFATIA (female)  
MALIKETI  
MATSIMBE (female)  
IDI  
MSUKWA

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NGWATA  
KAPECHATSONGA  
CHAULA  
NJIRAZAFA  
MKUKUMILA  
KAIME  
CHUNJIRA (female)  
KALILOMBO (female)

The new names listed above are all employees of the National Bank of Malawi arrested in Blantyre in late May 1992. The reason for their arrest appears to be that they were suspected of possessing or circulating documents advocating a change from one-party to multi-party government in Malawi. Mr Mitinda is reported to have been arrested on 21 May 1992, Winfrey Mphande the following day and the remainder on about 28 May. They are believed to have been taken first to Chichiri Prison in Blantyre, where the poor conditions have considerably worsened because of a recent influx of political detainees. Some, including Winfrey Mphande, are since believed to have been transferred to Zomba Central Prison.

Dozens - possibly hundreds - of office workers have been arrested in recent weeks because they are suspected of using office machines such as faxes and photocopiers to duplicate and transmit pro-multi-party literature.

Amnesty International has learned of the release of Egbert Chiwambo, the lecturer at Blantyre Polytechnic arrested in early May.

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**FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes and airmail letters**

- welcoming the release of Egbert Chiwambo;
- seeking information about the whereabouts and legal basis for the imprisonment of the rest of those listed above;
- expressing concern that they are reported to be still in custody, apparently without charge or trial, more than a month after their arrest;
- seeking assurances that they are being properly treated and have access to visits from their families, as well as lawyers and medical practitioners of their choice;
- calling for them to be released unless they are to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence and brought to trial promptly and fairly.

**APPEALS TO:**

1) H E The Life-President Ngwazi Dr H. Kamuzu Banda  
Office of the President and Cabinet  
P/Bag 301  
Lilongwe 3  
Malawi

**Salutation: Your Excellency**

**Telegrams: Life-President Banda Lilongwe, Malawi**  
**Telexes: 44389 PRES MI; 44766 JUSTICE MI; 44113 EXTERNAL MI**  
**Faxes: + 265 731878**

2) Hon. J Z U Tembo

Minister of State in the Office of the President **Salutation: Dear Minister**

P/Bag 301  
Lilongwe 3  
Malawi

**Telegrams: Minister of State Tembo, Lilongwe, Malawi**

3) Mr MacWilliam Lunguzi  
Inspector-General of Police

**Salutation: Dear Sir**

P/Bag 305  
Lilongwe 3  
Malawi

**Telegrams: Inspector-General of Police Lunguzi, Lilongwe, Malawi**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

Malawi Law Society  
PO Box 1712  
Blantyre

Malawi

The Chairman  
National Bank of Malawi  
PO Box 945  
Blantyre  
Malawi

and to diplomatic representatives of MALAWI in your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat,  
or your section office, if sending appeals after 18 August 1992.