

31 July 1995

**Further information (1) on UA 179/95 (AFR 44/10/95, 24 July 1995) - Executions / Fear of Further Executions**

**NIGERIA** 43 prisoners convicted of armed robbery, including Moshood Lawal and Mohammed Saleh (aged 42) and a further 11 people, including Manasa Thomas

A further 11 people are known to have been executed in Nigeria in addition to the 43 who were executed on 22 July 1995.

On 26 July 1995, Manasa Thomas and four other prisoners were executed in Adamawa State, eastern Nigeria. The five, aged between 29 and 32, included a national of neighbouring Chad who had recently been convicted of armed robbery by the State Robbery and Firearms Tribunal. It is believed the executions took place in public.

A further six prisoners are reported to have been executed in Lagos. Following the public execution of 43 prisoners on 22 July 1995, it was announced that 10 other prisoners had been granted a stay of execution. On 25 July however, a government official announced that six of those reportedly reprieved had in fact been executed earlier; the date of their execution is not known. Three others are apparently awaiting the outcome of their appeal for clemency to the Lagos State Military Administrator and one prisoner's sentence was commuted.

Further details have emerged on the public execution of the 43 prisoners. One, Moshood Lawal, was reportedly shot 10 times before he died; another, Mohammed Saleh, told reporters present at the execution that he had been condemned to death in 1979. He had been held in Kirikiri Maximum Security Prison since then and appeared to be in poor health at the time of his execution; prison conditions in Nigeria are harsh and prisoners routinely suffer from serious ill-health and medical neglect.

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/express/airmail letters in English or in your own language:**

- expressing regret at the public execution of five prisoners, including Manasa Thomas, in Adamawa State on 27 July 1995;
- expressing concern that another six prisoners initially announced as having received a stay of execution, had in fact already been executed, and asking for further information on these executions;
- requesting that the Nigerian government make public all statistics pertaining to capital punishment;
- calling on the military government to commute all death sentences and to stop all executions;
- expressing concern at a return to public executions which brutalizes those who watch and is a further degradation of the prisoner;
- stating that Amnesty International unconditionally opposes the death penalty in all cases on the grounds that it is a cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, inhuman and degrading punishment which violates the right to the right to life and has been shown to have no deterrent effect.

**APPEALS TO:**

1) General Sani Abacha

Chairman, Provisional Ruling Council  
and Minister of Defence

State House, Abuja

Federal Capital Territory, Nigeria

**Telexes: (0905) 91529 or 91530 EXTNAL NG (via Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**

**Telegrams: General Abacha, Abuja, Nigeria**

**Salutation: Dear General Abacha**

2) Colonel Oladipo Oyinlola

State Military Administrator

State House, Broad Street

POB 12637

10100 Lagos

Lagos State, Nigeria

**Telegrams: State Administrator, Lagos, Nigeria**

**Salutation: Dear Administrator**

3) Mr Mustapha Ismail

State Military Administrator

Government House

Yola

Adamawa State, Nigeria

**Telegrams: State Administrator, Lagos, Nigeria**

**Salutation: Dear Administrator**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

Chief Tom Ikimi

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

PMB 130, Abuja

Federal Capital Territory, Nigeria

Mr Michael Agbamuche

Minister of Justice and Attorney General,

Ministry of Justice,

State House, Abuja

Federal Capital Territory, Nigeria

The Editor, *The Guardian*, PMB 1217, Oshodi, Lagos, Nigeria

The Editor, *Newswatch*, PMB 21499, Ikeja, Lagos, Nigeria

The Editor, *The Week*, PO Box 11333 Ikeja, Lagos, Nigeria

The Editor, *AM News*, PMB 21531, Ikeja, Lagos, Nigeria

and to diplomatic representatives of Nigeria accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 11 September 1995.