

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AFR 51/03/98

28 January 1998

Further information on UA 20/98 (AFR 51/01/98, 20 January 1998) - Torture or ill-treatment/ Prisoners of conscience

SIERRA LEONE Sylvanus Kanyako, journalist, *Herald Guardian*
David Kamara (please note correct name), proprietor of *Herald Guardian*
Anthony Swaray, freelance journalist (released)

Anthony Swaray, a freelance journalist arrested around 14 January 1998, was released without charge on 21 January 1998.

Amnesty International remains seriously concerned, however, about the health and safety of Sylvanus Kanyako and David Kamara who remain in detention. They were arrested on 10 January after an article published in the *Herald Guardian* suggested that a prominent member of the ruling Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) should be arrested in connection with the looting of the Iranian Embassy in Freetown in late December 1997. No charges have been brought against them.

Both Sylvanus Kanyako and David Kamara are reported to have been tortured and ill-treated in detention and to be in a serious condition. They are being held at the police Criminal Investigation Department (CID) headquarters in the centre of Freetown.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Because of disruption to communications with Sierra Leone since May 1997, Urgent Action coordinators are asked to organize a limited number of appeals only: up to FIVE per section. A restricted international postal service is operating through neighbouring Guinea, but delays are inevitable. Fax machines operate but sometimes intermittently.

Please send faxes/express/airmail letters in English or in your own language:

- welcoming the release of Anthony Swaray;
- expressing concern about the continuing detention of Sylvanus Kanyako and David Kamara, whom Amnesty International considers to be prisoners of conscience, and urging their immediate and unconditional release;
- expressing serious concern about reports that they have been tortured and ill-treated while in custody and urging immediate measures to ensure that they are protected from torture and ill-treatment and are humanely treated;
- requesting an immediate investigation into these reports of torture and ill-treatment in order to bring those responsible to justice;
- urging that Sylvanus Kanyako and David Kamara be allowed immediate access to a doctor, a lawyer and members of their families.

APPEALS TO:

Lieutenant Colonel Johnny Paul Koroma
Chairman, Armed Forces Revolutionary Council
State House

Independence Avenue

Freetown, Sierra Leone

Faxes: + 232 22 24 21 26/22 22 78 78

Salutation: Dear Lieutenant Colonel Koroma

Colonel Abdul K. Sesay

Secretary General, Armed Forces Revolutionary Council

State House
Independence Avenue
Freetown, Sierra Leone
Faxes: + 232 22 22 94 73
Salutation: Dear Colonel Sesay

Mr Allieu Kamara
Spokesman, Armed Forces Revolutionary Council
State House
Independence Avenue
Freetown, Sierra Leone
Faxes: + 232 22 22 88 99
Salutation: Dear Mr Kamara

Mr Alimamy Paolo Bangura
Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs
Department of Foreign Affairs
14 Gloucester Street
Freetown, Sierra Leone
Faxes: + 232 22 22 56 15
Salutation: Dear Mr Bangura

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 16 March 1998.