

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 277/90 (AFR 56/05/90, 3 July 1990) - Legal Concern

TANZANIA:           Juma Osman JUMA  
                      Shaban MLOO  
                      Soud Yusuf MGENI  
                      Ali Haji PANDU  
                      Machano KHAMIS

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Amnesty International is concerned about the continuing detention in Zanzibar of the above prisoners of conscience who were originally arrested in late June 1990. The organization is urging their immediate release.

The Attorney General of Zanzibar has told Amnesty International that the five men are being detained under the Preventive Detention Decree, 1964 which gives the President of Zanzibar sweeping powers to detain those deemed to be a threat to the state. The Decree contains no safeguards protecting the rights of detainees, such as the right to publication of their detention, the right to a review at which they are legally represented, or the right to visits by family.

Amnesty International is concerned at reports that their food has been rendered inedible by the addition of too much salt and is seeking assurances that these reports be investigated.

The five men were arrested three weeks before registration opened for the electoral roll to be used in the elections of 28 October 1990. The government has sought to justify the detentions of the above five men on the grounds that they were attempting to "disrupt" the elections.

Opponents of the Union between Zanzibar and the mainland have called on people not to register and are instead calling for a referendum on the continuation of the Union. At least 60 other opponents of the government have been arrested, often for brief periods, since mid-July. Those who have refused to register as voters have suffered reprisals: government servants have been dismissed or suspended; shopkeepers and students in higher education have had their trading licences or scholarships withdrawn.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In 1964 Zanzibar entered a political union with mainland Tanganyika to form the United Republic of Tanzania. In 1977 the Chama cha Mapinduzi (CCM), the Party of the Revolution, became the only political party in Tanzania, with no independent political activity or organization allowed.

Anti-Union activism, drawing in part on the importance of Islam to many Zanzibaris, has been growing since early 1988. There has been repeated harassment of anti-Union activists, with many being detained for brief periods before being released uncharged. The unofficial leader of the Zanzibar opposition, Seif Shariff Hamad, is awaiting trial for the illegal possession of government documents; Amnesty International is investigating whether he is a prisoner of conscience.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telexes/telegrams/express letters/airmail letters:**

- expressing concern at the continuing detention of the five men whom Amnesty International considers to be prisoners of conscience detained for the non-violent expression of their political beliefs;
- urging the immediate and unconditional release of Shaban Mlool, Ali Haji Pandu, Juma Osman Juma, Machano Khamis and Soud Yusuf Mgeni;
- expressing concern at reports that their food has been rendered inedible by the addition of too much salt and seeking assurances that these reports will be investigated;
- expressing concern that the legislation under which they are being held contains no legal safeguards protecting their human rights;
- asking where each man is being held and seeking assurances that they are being allowed access to lawyers and to their families.

**APPEALS TO:**

The Hon Ndugu Idris Abdul Wakil  
Second Vice-President of the United Republic of Tanzania  
and President of Zanzibar  
Office of the President of Zanzibar  
PO Box 776  
Zanzibar, Tanzania

Telexes: 57311, 57367  
Telegrams: President, Zanzibar, Tanzania

The Hon. Ndugu Omar Ali Juma  
Chief Minister of Zanzibar  
Office of the Chief Minister  
PO Box 437  
Zanzibar, Tanzania

Telexes: 57017  
Telegrams: Chief Minister, Zanzibar, Tanzania

**COPIES TO:**

His Excellency Ndugu Ali Hassan Mwinyi  
President of the United Republic of Tanzania and Minister of Defence  
Office of the President  
State House  
PO Box 9120  
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

The Hon. Ndugu Hamid Mahmoud Hamid  
Attorney-General of Zanzibar  
Office of the Attorney-General  
PO Box 437  
Zanzibar, Tanzania

and to diplomatic representatives of Tanzania in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,  
or your section office, if sending appeals after 28 October 1990.