

PUBLIC

AI Index: AFR 57/009/2003

24 July 2003

Further Information on UA 179/03 (AFR 57/006/2003, 20 June 2003) Fear of torture/Prisoners of Conscience (POCs)

TOGO Dimas Dzikodo (m), Chief Editor of *l'Événement*,
 Philippe Evegno (m), Publishing Director of *l'Événement*
 Colombo Kpakpabia (m), journalist at *Nouvel Echo*

Philippe Evegno and Colombo Kpakpabia were released on 23 July, having been acquitted by a court in the capital Lomé, the day before. Dimas Dzikodo was fined 500 000 FCFA for "*attempting to publish false news*". He was released on 24 July after paying the fine.

Colombo Kpakpabia and Dimas Dzikodo confirmed in Court that they were tortured during their first days of pre-trial detention. One of the journalists said to Amnesty International "*I would like to express my deep thanks to all those who contributed to our release and who prevented the worse from happening*".

No further action is required from the UA network. Many thanks to all those who sent appeals.