

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AFR 59/01/96

UA 73/96

Executions / Fear of further executions

18 March 1996

UGANDA

Salim Mulumba
Sulema Ndamagye
Dominic Oboth

and around 200 prisoners on death row

Amnesty International fears that Uganda may carry out further death sentences after the sudden execution of three prisoners on 5 March 1996 - the first executions to be carried out in Uganda since 1993.

As reported in a press release issued by the Prisons Headquarters, the three men, Salim Mulumba, Sulema Ndamagye and Dominic Oboth, all convicted over 10 years ago for murder, were hanged after the Prerogative of Mercy Committee (PMC) upheld their convictions earlier on 5 March. A letter, written by State House and signed on behalf of President Museveni, confirmed that the executions should go ahead, indicating that President Museveni declined to exercise executive clemency and commute the sentences. Three other men, Frankeen Byaruhanga, Paul Matobu and Paul Kayondo (the first two convicted for murder and the third for aggravated robbery) had their death sentences commuted to life imprisonment at that time. It is not known if the PMC reviewed the cases of other condemned prisoners on 5 March, if they intend to review more cases in the near future, or if any further executions are planned because the deliberations of the PMC are officially confidential.

Amnesty International is deeply concerned about this sudden resumption of executions in Uganda. The organization fears this may indicate a renewed commitment to the death penalty by the Ugandan Government and that any of the sentences of the remaining 200 or so prisoners on death row may be confirmed and immediately carried out in the near future. This would contradict calls by religious leaders, legal bodies and human rights groups in Uganda for abolition of the death penalty.

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

- expressing deep regret at the executions of Salim Mulumba, Sulema Ndamagye and Dominic Oboth out on 5 March 1996;
- expressing sympathy for the victims of violent crime and their families, but stating opposition to the death penalty in all cases as a violation of the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishments;
- appealing for a moratorium on executions in Uganda and urging the authorities to consider abolishing capital punishment completely;
- appealing that the Prerogative of Mercy Committee and/or the President commutes all death sentences it reviews to terms of life imprisonment.

APPEALS TO:

President Yoweri K Museveni
Parliament Buildings
PO Box 706
Kampala
Uganda

Faxes: +256 41 25 79 86 or 25 53 28 or 25 87 22

Telegrams: President Museveni, Parliament Buildings, Kampala, Uganda

Salutation: Dear President

The Hon Joseph Ekemu
Minister of Justice and Attorney General
PO Box 341
Kampala
Uganda

Faxes: +256 41 25 48 29

Telegrams: Justice Minister Ekemu, Kampala, Uganda

Salutation: Dear Minister

Mr Ruhakana Rugunda
Minister for Foreign Affairs
PO Box 7048
Kampala
Uganda

Faxes: +256 41 25 79 86

Telegrams: Foreign Affairs Minister Rugunda, Kampala, Uganda

Salutation: Dear Minister

Mr Crispus Kyonga
Minister for Internal Affairs
PO Box 7191
Kampala
Uganda

Telegrams: Internal Affairs Minister Kyonga, Kampala, Uganda

Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

- Editor, The Monitor, PO Box 12141, Kampala, Uganda
- Mr Solome Bossa, President Uganda Law Society, PO Box 6768, Kampala, Uganda
- Foundation for Human Rights Initiative, PO Box 11027, Kampala, Uganda
- Office of Human Rights Commission, C/O Ministry of Justice, PO Box 7183, Kampala, Uganda

and to diplomatic representatives of Uganda accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 5 May 1996.