

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AFR 63/01/93

Distr: UA/SC

UA 64/93 Legal concern

9 March 1993

ZAMBIA:

Bweendo Mulengela
Bonnie Tembo
Peter Lishika
Christopher Muyoka
Wezi Kaunda

Steven Moyo
Rabson Chongo
Stan Mutanga
McPherson Mbulo

William Banda
Rupiya Banda
Sianda Ilukena
Cuthbert Nguni
Henry Kamima

Philemon Lwabila
Peter Mwanza
Stanley Mhango
Ackim Zimba

Amnesty International is concerned at the detention without charge or trial in Zambia of the above 18 members of the United National Independence Party (UNIP) which took place on 5 and 7 March 1993. The 18 appear to be prisoners of conscience and Amnesty International is urging the government to release them if they are not to be promptly charged with a recognizably criminal offence.

The detainees are being held under the Preservation of Public Security Regulations which provide for indefinite administrative detention without charge or trial. This legislation can only be invoked following the declaration of a State of Emergency, which took place on 4 March 1993.

Amnesty International, however, opposes the use of powers of indefinite detention without charge or trial, considering that if suspected of committing offences prisoners should be referred to a fair trial within a reasonable period.

This is the first time the government, formed by the Movement for Multi-Party Democracy (MMD) led by President Frederick Chiluba, has introduced a State of Emergency and detained political opponents since coming to power in multi-party elections in October 1991. The previous government, formed by UNIP, maintained a State of Emergency throughout its 27 year rule and used it justify the detention of government critics and political opponents. When in opposition the MMD campaigned for human rights improvements and condemned UNIP's use of emergency regulations.

The 18 detainees are being held in various police stations in different parts of the country where they are reported to be under interrogation by military officials. One, Weze Kaunda, son of former UNIP leader and Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda, is reported to have started a hunger-strike on 5 March.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The government claims to have discovered a UNIP plot to make the country ungovernable

through an orchestrated campaign of civil disobedience. The evidence so far made public by the government is a document entitled The Zero Option which was discovered in UNIP headquarters in Lusaka. The UNIP leadership has denied that the document was party policy. The authorities claim to have subsequently uncovered a second document which gives details of a coup plot.

The MMD government has implemented a structural adjustment program under International Monetary Fund guidelines. Unemployment has risen sharply and there have been widespread strikes. Government policies are increasingly unpopular, especially among the poor.

Page 2 of UA 64/93

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

- expressing concern at the detention without charge or trial of the 18 United National Independence Party (UNIP) members named above (please select two or three names from the list as examples) who Amnesty International believes may be prisoners of conscience detained for their non-violent opposition to the government;

- expressing Amnesty International's opposition to administrative detention procedures which provide for indefinite detention without charge or trial;

- expressing Amnesty International's particular concern that the government has resorted to the use of administrative detention procedures despite its former opposition to their use by the previous government;

- urging that the 18 detainees be released if they are not to be charged with a recognisably criminal offence and brought promptly to a fair trial.

APPEALS TO:

1) His Excellency Frederick Chiluba
President of the Republic of Zambia
Office of the President
State House, PO Box 30208
Lusaka, Zambia

**Telegrams: President Chiluba, Lusaka,
Zambia**

Telexes: 41998 or 41460

Salutation: Your Excellency

2) The Hon. Newstead Zimba
Minister of Home Affairs
Ministry of Home Affairs
PO Box 32862, Lusaka, Zambia

**Telegrams: Hon. Newstead Zimba,
Minister of Home Affairs,
Lusaka, Zambia**

Telexes: 40344

Salutation: Dear Minister

3) The Hon. Vernon Mwaanga
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Charter House, PO Box 50069
Lusaka, Zambia

**Telegrams: Hon. Vernon Mwaanga,
Minister of Foreign Affairs,
Lusaka, Zambia**

Telexes: 41290

Salutation: Dear Minister

4) The Hon. Dr Roger Chongwe
Minister of Legal Affairs
Ministry of Legal Affairs
PO Box 50106

**Telegrams: Hon. Dr Roger Chongwe,
Minister of Legal Affairs,
Lusaka, Zambia**

Telexes: 40564

Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO the following newspapers:

The Editor
Weekly Post
Private Bag EF 352
Lusaka, Zambia

The Editor
The Times of Zambia
PO Box 30394
Lusaka, Zambia

and to diplomatic representatives of Zambia accredited to your country

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 20 April 1993.