

URGENT ACTION

POLITICAL ACTIVIST RELEASED FROM DETENTION

Political activist Clara Nsegue Eyí was released from detention on 9 October. She had been held without charge or trial in the Gendarmerie (a police station) in the town of Mongomo, north-eastern Equatorial Guinea, since 26 June. During her detention she did not receive medical treatment for a tumour requiring urgent attention.

Clara Nsegue Eyí, also known as “Lola”, is the founder of the Democratic Party for Social Justice (Partido Democrático de la Justicia Social, PDJS), which the authorities refuse to register. She is also a teacher and a coordinator of the People’s Protest Movement (Movimiento de Protesta Popular). She was first arrested on 13 May 2013 in connection with a planned demonstration by the People’s Protest Movement against the authorities’ refusal to legalize the PDJS. Clara Nsegue Eyí was sent to her native town of Mongomo and imprisoned without charge or trial in the town’s Gerdarmerie. She was released 14 days later on 27 May, the day after general elections, and ordered not to leave Mongomo, despite normally residing in Malabo, the capital city.

Approximately two weeks later, Clara Nsegue Eyí returned to her home in Malabo, where police officers arrested her without a warrant in the market for refusing to obey the minister’s verbal order confining her to her native town. She was taken back to Mongomo where she was initially imprisoned in a military barracks before being transferred to the Gendarmerie in mid-July, where she was held until her release. Clara Nsegue Eyí was never charged with any offence or brought before a court of law.

Clara Nsegue Eyí’s arrest and detention were illegal under national law. On both occasions she was arrested without a warrant; on 13 May for organizing a demonstration, and on 25 June for disobeying an order which had no legal basis. She was held without charge and not brought before a court of law, which is in contravention of national law that stipulates that a detained person must be brought before a judge within 72 hours.

These arrests and detentions violated Clara Nsegue Eyí’s rights to freedom of expression, assembly and association, as well as her freedom of movement. The refusal by the authorities to provide her with the medical treatment she required amounted to cruel and inhumane treatment.

Amnesty International believes that international pressure played a role in her release.

Many thanks to those who sent appeals on behalf of Clara Nsegue Eyí. No further action is required by the UA Network.

This is the first update of UA 210/13. Further information: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AFR24/011/2013/en>

Name: Clara Nsegue Eyí

Gender m/f: Female

Further information on UA: 210/13 Index: AFR 24/014/2013 Issue Date: 11 October 2013

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