

28 March 2002

Further information on UA 84/02 (AFR 24/001/2002, 19 March 2002) - Fear of Torture/Possible POCs

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

Felipe Ondó Obiang - former parliamentarian & leader of the *Fuerza Demócrata Republicana* (FDR), Republican Democratic Force

Emilio Ndongo Biyogo- member of the *Unión Popular* (UP), Popular Union

Guillermo Nguema Elá - former Finance Minister & leader of the *Fuerza Demócrata Republicana* (FDR), Republican Democratic Force

General Jaime Obama Owono Nchama

Lt. Col. Lorenzo Ondó Elá

Lt. Col. Segismundo Obama Esono

Commandant Mariano Ndongo Esangui

And At least 40 Civilians and military personnel

New Names:

César Elá Ondó (m) - Children of Felipe Ondó Obiang

Pedro Alogo Mansuy (m)

Marisol Ondó (f)

Alejandro Medang (m) - Brothers of Felipe Ondó Obiang

Juan Owono Obiang (m)

Natalia Ondó (f) - Pregnant Niece of Felipe Ondó Obiang,

The relatives of Felipe Ondó Obiang named above, were arrested at home in Malabo, the capital of Equatorial Guinea on 23 March. Their exact whereabouts are unknown and there are concerns for their safety as political detainees are routinely tortured or ill-treated.

Since a wave of arrests by security forces which began on 14 March, an unknown number of alleged members of the *Fuerza Demócrata Republicana* (FDR), Republican Democratic Force, their relatives and high ranking military personnel have been detained. Many are thought to be held incommunicado at Bata Public Prison, in the main city in the continental part of Equatorial Guinea. Some of those detained are reportedly regularly transferred to several unofficial places of detention in Bata, including the Presidential palace "Africa" and an isolated house on a beach near the village of Útonde, north of the airport in Bata, where they may be subject to torture or ill-treatment.

The authorities have not officially explained why they have carried out the arrests despite requests from opposition parties. On 20 March, the Minister of Interior stated at a meeting with political parties, that the authorities had found evidence of attempts by the FDR to recruit military personnel to physically attack members of the government listed on document belonging to alleged plotters. Nonetheless none of those detained have been formally charged and many are prisoners of conscience.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Spanish or your own language:

- seeking urgent assurances that all the people mentioned above, including Natalia Ondó who is pregnant as well as the civilians and military personnel detained since 14 March, will be safeguarded from any form of ill-treatment or torture;
- urging that they be allowed immediate and continued access to their family, medical care and legal counsel;
- asking the authorities to give the reason for their arrest;
- calling for the immediate and unconditional release of all those detained during the wave of arrests which began on 14 March, unless they are to be promptly charged with recognizably criminal offences.

APPEALS TO:

President of the Republic
General Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo

Presidente de la República
Gabinete del Presidente de la República
Malabo
República de Guinea Ecuatorial

Telegrams: Presidente de la República, Malabo, República de Guinea Ecuatorial
Fax: + 240 9 3313/3334
Salutation: Your Excellency/Excelencia

Minister of Interior
Clemente Ngonga Nguema Andema
Ministerio del Interior
Ministerio del Interior
Malabo
República de Guinea Ecuatorial

Telegrams: Ministro del Interior, Malabo, República de Guinea Ecuatorial
Fax: + 240 9 2683/2688
Salutation: Dear Interior Minister/ Sr. Ministro

Minister of Justice
Rubén Mayé Nsue Mangué
Ministerio de Justicia y Culto
Ministerio de Justicia y Culto
Malabo
República de Guinea Ecuatorial

Telegrams: Ministro de Justicia y Culto, Malabo, República de Guinea Ecuatorial
Fax: + 240 9 2115
Salutation: Dear Justice Minister/ Sr. Ministro

COPIES to: Diplomatic representatives of Equatorial Guinea accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 9 May 2002