

PUBLIC

AI Index: AFR 32/019/2001

31 October 2001

Further information on UA 270/01 (AFR 32/002/2001, 23 October 2001) - Fear of ill-treatment/possible prisoners of conscience

**KENYA**            67 members and supporters of the Release Political Prisoners (RPP)group  
Kibe Mungai (m), lawyer  
Njoroge Wanguthi (m), RPP Chairman  
Orina Nyamwamu (m), RPP Secretary General

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All 70 members and supporters of the Kenyan human rights group, Release Political Prisoners, were released on the orders of the High Court on 26 October 2001 on bail of 30,000 Kenyan shillings (approx US\$450).

The women held at Lang'ata Prison were released at 7.30pm. However, the prison authorities tried to delay the release of the men held in Kamiti Maximum Security Prison, and harassed their supporters who were waiting outside. The group were released just before midnight. Police reportedly beat three of the people waiting outside the prison gates.

All 70, plus Professor Kivutha Kibwana who was released on bail earlier, are facing charges of "unlawful assembly", arising from their celebration of Mau Mau Day (officially known as Kenyatta Day) in the compound of their offices in Nairobi on 20 October. The next court hearing is set for 5 to 7 November. If convicted they could face up to one year's imprisonment.

In a letter to well-wishers and supporters, RPP stated that "On behalf of those who were persecuted by Moi regime in Lang'ata and Kamiti prison and the entire RPP, we wish to express our gratitude and appreciation for the great and hard work towards our freedom. Without your support, things would have not worked out."

**Many thanks to all those who sent appeals. If possible, please send a final round of appeals, in English or your own language:**

- welcoming the release on bail of 71 members and supporters of Release Political Prisoners, but expressing concern at reports that police beat three of their supporters waiting outside Kamiti prison;
- seeking assurances that the 71 will not be ill-treated or harassed by the authorities while they are awaiting trial on bail;
- urging the authorities to withdraw the charges against them, and drawing to the authorities' attention that, if the 71 were convicted and sentenced to terms of imprisonment, Amnesty International would consider adopting them as prisoners of conscience;
- continuing to urge the authorities to set up a prompt and impartial investigation into police action during the arrests of RPP members and supporters on 20 October, and to ensure that any police officers who used excessive force are brought to justice.

**APPEALS TO:**

Major Marsden Madoka  
Minister of State (responsible for internal security)  
Office of the President  
PO Box 30510  
Nairobi, Kenya

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**Telegrams: Major Marsden, Nairobi, Kenya**  
**Faxes: +254 2 337 340**  
**Salutation: Dear Major**

Commissioner Philemon Abong'o  
Commissioner of Police  
PO Box 30083, Nairobi, Kenya  
**Telegrams: Police Commissioner Abong'o, Nairobi, Kenya**  
**Faxes: +254 2 330495**  
**Salutation: Dear Commissioner**

Mr Amos Wako  
Attorney General  
PO Box 40112, Nairobi, Kenya  
**Faxes: +254 2 221082**  
**Salutation: Dear Attorney General**

**COPIES TO:**  
Release Political Prisoners  
PO Box 50613, Nairobi, Kenya  
**Email: rpp@iconnect.co.ke**

*The Daily Nation*  
**Faxes: +254 2 213 946/ 214 047/ 217 112/ 214 565**

and to diplomatic representatives of Kenya accredited to your country.

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