

PUBLIC

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Further information on UA 215/99 (AFR 32/13/99, 23 August 1999) - Unfair trial

KENYA Tony Gachoka, editor-in-chief of the Post on Sunday

Tony Gachoka was granted a presidential pardon and released from prison on 3 November 1999, after serving only two and a half months of a six-month prison sentence for contempt of court. Under Kenyan law, the president has the power to pardon any convicted prisoner.

Tony Gachoka's release comes after national and international pressure, and shortly before the Commonwealth heads of government meeting, due to begin in South Africa next week.

He had been imprisoned after publishing articles alleging corruption in the judiciary. Amnesty International did not take a position on the content of the articles, but was concerned that Tony Gachoka did not receive a fair trial.

Many thanks to all who sent appeals. No further action is needed.