

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 114/92 (AFR 36/09/92, 6 April 1992) and follow-ups AFR 36/10/92 of 14 April 1992, AFR 36/13/92 of 30 April 1992, AFR 36/17/92 of 8 May 1992, AFR 36/19/92 of 12 May 1992 and AFR 36/23/92 of 5 June 1992 - Legal concern/Fear of extrajudicial execution

MALAWI: Chakufwa CHIHANA, aged 52, international trade union official

Chakufwa Chihana was released on 11 July 1992 after more than three months of detention without charge. After his release he said that he had been held in solitary confinement at Mikuyu Prison and that he had spent a month held in leg-irons.

Chakufwa Chihana was released in compliance with a High Court ruling on 10 July 1992 granting him bail. On 13 July he was formally charged before a magistrates' court in Zomba on three counts of possessing or importing seditious publications. The allegedly seditious material includes a copy of the Roman Catholic bishops' lenten pastoral letter issued in March 1992, which criticized the government's human rights record and the one-party political system, as well as copies of speeches by Chakufwa Chihana himself. If convicted, Chakufwa Chihana could face a sentence of up to five years' imprisonment on each charge. Amnesty International would regard him as a prisoner of conscience if convicted and imprisoned. The organization is calling on the authorities to withdraw the charges against him. Amnesty International is also calling on the government to guarantee Chakufwa Chihana's safety, in view of previous assassinations of Malawian opposition leaders and Life-President Dr H. Kamuzu Banda's recent threat that returning political exiles would be "meat for crocodiles".

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes and airmail letters

- welcoming the release of Chakufwa Chihana;
- seeking assurances of his personal safety;
- calling on the government to withdraw the charges against him, which are a violation of his internationally recognized right to free expression of his non-violent opinions.

APPEALS TO:

1) H E The Life-President Ngwazi Dr H. Kamuzu Banda
Office of the President and Cabinet
P/Bag 301

Lilongwe 3
Malawi

Telegrams: Life-President Banda, Lilongwe, Malawi
Telexes: 44389 PRES MI; 44766 JUSTICE MI
44113 EXTERNAL MI
Faxes: + 265 731878

Salutation: Your Excellency

Page 2 of 6FU 114/92

2) Hon. J Z U Tembo
Minister of State in the Office of the President
P/Bag 301
Lilongwe 3
Malawi
Telegrams: Minister of State Tembo, Lilongwe, Malawi

Salutation: Dear Minister

3) Mr MacWilliam Lunguzi
Inspector-General of Police
P/Bag 305
Lilongwe 3
Malawi
Telegrams: Inspector-General of Police, Lunguzi, Lilongwe, Malawi

Salutation: Dear Sir

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Southern Africa Trade Union Co-ordination Council
PO Box 1271
Lilongwe
Malawi

The Editor
The Weekly Post
Private Bag EF 352
Lusaka
Zambia

The Editor
The Weekend Gazette
PO Box 66070
Harare
Zimbabwe

and to diplomatic representatives of MALAWI in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 24 August 1992.