

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AFR 44/14/91

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Further information on UA 354/91 (AFR 44/13/91, 25 October 1991) - Death penalty/legal concern

NIGERIA: Paul Iguele  
Sunday Tomoloju  
Trooper Olajide Adelaku  
Trooper Chris Aniebi  
Lance Corporal Pullen Blacky  
Private Okam Enana  
Lance Corporal Lucky Iwiero  
Warrant Officer Jomo James  
Warrant Officer David Mukoro  
Sergeant Gatir Ortoo  
Trooper Fakolade Taiwo

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Eleven people arrested in connection with the April 1990 coup attempt have reportedly been put through three secret trials before a government controlled tribunal in an apparent attempt to ensure that they are convicted and sentenced to death. Amnesty International fears that executions may be imminent and urges the government not to carry out any executions and to release those prisoners who were acquitted in previous trials before the Special Military Tribunal.

The 11 men named above, who include two civilians, have reportedly been sentenced either to death or to life imprisonment in their third trial before a Special Military Tribunal. They were charged with treason, a capital offence, or concealment of treason, punishable by life imprisonment. Details of their convictions are not known, nor is it clear when the first and second trials took place but they apparently resulted in acquittals. As with similar trials of alleged coup plotters in 1990, it appears that the government ordered their retrial in an attempt to ensure convictions and death sentences. Amnesty International is concerned that the reason for the retrials was political and that the trials were grossly unfair.

Amnesty International earlier expressed concern that Charles and David Mukoro, relatives of an armed forces officer suspected of involvement in the coup attempt who escaped arrest, were among the 11 on trial. In fact, it appears that David Mukoro is an armed forces officer and is among the 11, but that Charles Mukoro may still be detained without charge or trial, as are other relatives of people suspected of organizing the coup attempt (see Nigeria: Detention of hostages, AFR 44/11/91, 8 October 1991).

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams\telexex\faxes\express and airmail letters:**

- expressing concern that the Nigerian government has apparently put defendants through three secret trials before a government controlled

tribunal in an attempt to ensure convictions and death sentences;

- requesting information about the 11 prisoners and the three trials they are alleged to have faced before the Special Military Tribunal;

- urging the government not to carry out any executions and to release those prisoners who were acquitted in previous trials before the Special Military Tribunal.

page 2 of FU 354/91

**APPEALS TO**

1. General Ibrahim Babangida  
President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces  
State House  
Ribadu Road  
Ikoyi Island, Lagos  
Nigeria

**Mr. President**

**Telegrams: President Babangida, Lagos, Nigeria**  
**Telexes: 21444 EXTNAL NG**  
**or 21236 EXTNAL NG**  
**(via Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**

2. Admiral (Retd) Augustus Aikhomu  
Vice-President  
State House  
Ribadu Road  
Ikoyi Island  
Lagos, Nigeria

**Mr. Vice-President**

**Telegrams: Vice-President Aikhomu, Lagos, Nigeria**  
**Telexes: 21444 EXTNAL NG**  
**or 21236 EXTNAL NG**  
**(via Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**

3. General Sani Abacha  
Chief of Defence Staff and Minister of Defence  
Defence Headquarters  
Ministry of Defence  
Independence Building  
Tafawa Balewa Square  
Lagos, Nigeria

**Dear General**

**Telegrams: Defence Minister Abacha, Lagos, Nigeria**

4. Prince Bola Ajibola  
Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice  
Minister of Justice  
The Old Secretariat  
PMB 12517, Marina  
Lagos, Nigeria

**Dear Minister**

**Telegrams: Justice Minister Ajibola, Lagos, Nigeria**

**COPIES TO:**

Major-General (Retd) Ike O.S. Nwachukwu  
Minister of External Affairs

Ministry of External Affairs  
Maputo Street  
Abuja  
Federal Capital Territory, Nigeria

*The Guardian*, PMB 1217, Oshodi, Lagos, Nigeria  
*The Punch*, PMB 21204, Ikeja, Lagos, Nigeria  
*Nigerian Observer*, PMB 1334, Benin City, Edo State, Nigeria  
*Nigerian Tide*, PMB 5072, Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria  
*Nigerian Star*, PMB 73, Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria  
President, Nigerian Bar Association, PMB 12610, Lagos, Nigeria

and to diplomatic representatives of Nigeria in your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat,  
or your section office, if sending appeals after 12 December 1991.