

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AFR 44/15/91  
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4 November 1991

Further information on UA 354/91 (AFR 44/13/91, 25 October 1991) and follow-up AFR 44/14/91 (31 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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Amnesty International has received information that eight of the 11 people named above, who were sentenced to death after their third trial before a government controlled military tribunal, have had their sentences commuted to life imprisonment. The life sentences imposed on the other three defendants have been reduced to 10 years' imprisonment.

The 11 men named above, who include two civilians, were arrested in connection with the April 1990 coup attempt. They were reportedly tried three times in secret by a Special Military Tribunal, on charges of 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. As in 1990 Amnesty International once again expresses its concern that the reason for the retrials was political, that the trials were grossly unfair and that the defendants were not allowed the opportunity to appeal against their convictions and sentences.

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/express and airmail letters:**

- welcoming the news that the eight people who were sentenced to death after 11 defendants were tried for the third time by a Special Military Tribunal, have had their sentences commuted to life imprisonment;
- expressing concern at reports that the Nigerian government apparently put the defendants through three secret trials before the Special Military Tribunal and calling on the government to release those prisoners who were previously acquitted;
- urging the authorities to allow those who were not previously acquitted to appeal against the decisions of the Special Military Tribunal to a

higher, independent court.

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  
Ministry 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 16 December 1991.