

Prisoners are held in overcrowded cells in Malabo, the capital, on Bioko Island. Eleven prisoners, whose death sentences were commuted, continue to be held incommunicado and at least two are not receiving the medical treatment they need.

On 20 October 1999 a detainee, Digno Sepa Tobachi, "Elako", died as a result of torture and lack of medical care.

"Several other prisoners -- including Emilio Ribas Esado who is suffering from an inflammation of the testicles -- could die in the coming weeks if they do not receive adequate medical treatment," the organization warned.

Amnesty International calls for the release of all prisoners of conscience and urges the government to improve the prison conditions of these prisoners and allow international humanitarian organizations, such as the International Committee of the Red Cross, access to them.

Background

The March legislative elections, which were marred by massive fraud, were won by the ruling *Partido Democrático de Guinea Ecuatorial* (PDGE), Equatorial Guinea Democratic Party. However, the two main opposition parties, the *Convergencia para la Democracia Social* (CPDS), Convergence for Social Democracy and the *Unión Popular*, Popular Union, challenged the results and refused to sit in Parliament.

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