

PUBLIC

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9 February 2001

Further information on UA 25/01 (AFR 56/004/2001, 31 January 2001) - Fear of Torture

TANZANIA Mohammed Ali Yussuf
Hamad Masaud Hamad
Maulid Makame Abdallah
Juma Othman Juma
Ahmed Seif
At least 600 others

The torture and ill-treatment of detainees arrested following the recent violent crack-down on demonstrators in Tanzania reportedly continues. A number of those being treated in hospital for injuries resulting from the excessive use of force by police are being forcibly removed to prison. Arrests are continuing, and a large number of opposition members have fled the country.

All detainees have reportedly now been charged with various offences, ranging from unlawful assembly to violently disturbing the peace. More than 600 people are believed to have been imprisoned, most of them in the main prison in Zanzibar Town. Some of them reportedly continue to be subjected to torture and ill-treatment, and others have been denied access to medical treatment. A number of people have been arrested while in hospital receiving treatment for bullet wounds and beatings, although they had not been officially discharged by their doctors. Armed guards appear to be arresting anyone with bullet wounds, deterring those injured during the demonstrations from seeking medical attention.

Most of the detainees were arrested between 25 and 28 January on the islands of Unguja, Pemba and Zanzibar, and in Dar es Salaam in mainland Tanzania, after the police used excessive force in their attempt to prevent the opposition from demonstrating in protest at unfair elections. At least 37 people were reportedly killed, and an unknown number injured during the ensuing violence.

Since then, at least 200 people, including members of the Parliament of Zanzibar and the main opposition party, the Civic United Front (CUF), have fled to Kenya. They have reportedly said they will not return home, but will seek political asylum in Kenya if the persecution of opposition supporters continues. The Tanzanian security forces are maintaining a strong presence on the islands, particularly on Pemba, and are restricting the right to freedom of movement and the right to freedom association and expression.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in English or in your own language:

- expressing concern about allegations of the torture and ill-treatment of those detained in both prisons and police stations, seeking guarantees that this practice will cease and that those responsible for torture or ill-treatment are brought to justice;
- urging that all those injured receive adequate medical treatment, and are not forcibly removed from hospital prior to having been discharged by their doctors;
- asking that the names of those who have been arrested and charged be confirmed, and that they be given access to legal representation;
- expressing concern that at least 200 people, including members of the Parliament of Zanzibar and the CUF, have had to flee fearing for their safety,

and seeking assurances that they will be allowed to return home without fear of persecution;

- urging the authorities to respect the rights to freedom of assembly, association and expression of the people of Zanzibar, as set out in international human rights covenants to which Tanzania is party.

APPEALS TO:

Please note that it can be extremely difficult getting through to some of these numbers. Please be patient and keep trying, or write letters instead.

President Benjamin Mkapa
Office of the President
PO Box 9120
Dar es Salaam
Tanzania

Telegrams: President Benjamin Mkapa, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Faxes: + 255 222 11 3425
Salutation: Your Excellency

President Aman Abeid Karume
Office of the President of Zanzibar
PO Box 2422
Zanzibar
Tanzania

Telegram: President Aman Abeid Karume, Zanzibar, Tanzania
Faxes: + 25554 233722
Salutation: Your Excellency

Omar Mahita,
Inspector General of Police
Tanzania Police Headquarters
PO Box 9223
Dar es Salaam
Tanzania

Telegrams: Omar Mahita, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Faxes: + 255 222 136 556
Salutation: Dear Inspector General

COPIES TO:

Mr Iddi Hassam Pandu
~~Attorney General~~
PO Box 239
Zanzibar
Tanzania

Telegram: Mr Iddi Hassam Pandu, Zanzibar, Tanzania
Faxes: +25554 233722 (c/o Office of the President)
Salutation: Dear Attorney General

Police Commissioner of Zanzibar
Zanzibar Headquarters
PO Box 4220
Zanzibar
Tanzania

Telegram: Police Commissioner of Zanzibar

Faxes: + 25554 233722 (c/o the President's Office)

Salutation: Dear Commissioner

and to diplomatic representatives of Tanzania accredited to your country

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,

or your section office, if sending appeals after 22 March 2001.