

URGENT ACTION

THREE DETAINEES SHOULD BE RELEASED

Celestino Okenve, Antonio Nguema and Miguel Mbomio were arrested between 14 and 16 January in Equatorial Guinea in relation to the distribution of pamphlets protesting against the hosting of the Africa Cup of Nations in the country. All three men have been arbitrarily detained for over 2 weeks without charge and with restricted access to a lawyer.

Celestino Okenve, a human rights and political activist, was arrested without a warrant by a group of about seven policemen on 14 January while distributing pamphlets in the mainland city of Bata, Litoral Province, Equatorial Guinea. The pamphlets were calling for the boycott of the Africa Cup of Nations, which opened on 17 January in the country. He was arrested on the orders of the Wele Nzaz provincial governor who saw him distributing the leaflets and told him that what he was doing was wrong and against the President. When he demanded to know the reason for this arrest he was hit by a police officer.

Subsequently the police also arrested **Antonio Nguema**, Okenve's former student who was passing by and inquired about the reason for Okenve's arrest. Both men were taken to Bata Central Police Station. On arrival at the police station, Okenve again demanded to know the reason for his arrest and was again hit by a police officer.

On 16 January, **Miguel Mbomio**, was arrested at Bata Central Police station for holding a pamphlet criticizing the staging of the soccer tournament. He did not know Okenve or about his detention but had gone to the police station to deal with a private matter. The police officer on duty noticed the leaflet he was holding and arrested him.

Since their arrest the three men have not been informed of the charges against them. They have been allowed brief access to a lawyer but their lawyer was not permitted to be present during any police interrogations. They have restricted access to their families.

Please write immediately in Spanish or your own language:

- Calling on the authorities for the immediate and unconditional release of the three men as they are prisoners of conscience, arrested solely for exercising their right to freedom of expression and assembly;
- Calling them to respect the rights of the three men whilst in detention, in particular the right to confidential legal advice and representation;
- Urging the authorities to ensure that there is no further restrictions on human rights, in particular freedom of expression, during and after the Africa Cup of Nations.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 12 MARCH 2015 TO:

Attorney General

David Nguema Obiang
Fiscalía General de la República
Malabo, Equatorial Guinea
Fax: 011 240 333 09138; 011 240 333 094961 (Please try from 8.30am to 3.30pm GMT)

Salutation: Sr. Don/Dear Attorney General

Minister of Interior and Local

Administration
Clemente Engonga Nguema Onguena
Ministerio del Interior y Corporaciones
Locales, Malabo, Equatorial Guinea
Fax: 011 240 333 09 2683/2688/3406
(Please try from 8.30am to 3.30pm GMT)

Salutation: Sr. Don/Dear Minister

President

General Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo
Gabinete del Presidente de la República
Malabo, Equatorial Guinea
Fax: 011 240 333 09 3313/3334 (Please try from 8.30am to 3.30pm GMT)

Salutation: Excelencia/Your Excellency

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:

Name Address 1 Address 2 Address 3 Fax Fax number Email Email address Salutation Salutation

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Celestino Okenve is an economist and retired professor from the Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, where he taught communications. He is also the coordinator of the Solidarity Forum for Equatorial Guinea and a well-known blogger and political activist.

Equatorial Guinea has a history of repression of freedom of speech and association. Several political opponents have been arbitrarily detained and held incommunicado for long periods without charge.

Name: Celestino Okenve, Antonio Nguema and Miguel Mbomio

Gender m/f: m

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