URGENT ACTION

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER'S WHEREABOUTS UNKNOWN

Anacleto Micha Ndong, an Equatoguinean human rights defender, was sent to the Malabo prison of Black Beach on pre-trial detention on March 1. He has been accused of outrage and calumny by a gendarme who Anacleto Micha Ndong had accused of torturing him the last time he was detained in Black Beach, in 2023. On April 15, 2024, his lawyer went to Black Beach to visit Anacleto Micha Ndong, but his lawyer was told that Anacleto Micha was not there. Since then, no one has seen Anacleto Micha or has received any official confirmation of his whereabouts, which amounts to an enforced disappearance. According to some sources, he has been transferred to Oveng Ansem prison, where torture is reported to be prevalent. The authorities must immediately disclose Anacleto Micha Ndong's fate and whereabouts.

TAKE ACTION:

- Write a letter in your own words or using the sample below as a guide to one or both government officials listed. You can also email, fax, call or Tweet them.
- <u>Click here</u> to let us know the actions you took on **Second Urgent Action 21.24.** It's important to report because we share the total number with the officials we are trying to persuade and the people we are trying to help.

Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo
President of Equatorial Guinea Palacio Presidencial
de Guinea Ecuatorial
Avenida de Libertad, Malabo,
Guinea Equatorial
X/Twitter: @teonguema (Vice President)

Embassy of Equatorial Guinea
His Excellency Dr. Crisantos Obama Ondo
2020 16TH St NW
Washington, DC 20009

Email: <u>info@egembassydc.com</u> OR secretary@egembassydc.com

Date: 29 May 2024

Your Excellency,

I am writing to you regarding Equatoguinean human rights defender, **Anacleto Micha Ndong**, a member of the civic platform, 'Guinea Ecuatorial también es nuestra', that opts for non-violent opposition and political dialogue.

On April 15, Anacleto Micha's lawyer went to the Malabo prison of Black Beach where he was detained and was told that Anacleto Micha was not there. Since then, there has not been any official information about Anacleto Micha's whereabouts, which amounts to an enforced disappearance under international law.

I urge you to immediately disclose Anacleto Micha's fate and whereabouts, ensuring that he is protected from torture and other ill-treatment wherever he is held, and to take all necessary steps to grant his immediate release from arbitrary detention which stems from his peaceful activism. I further urge you to ensure his allegations of torture are promptly and effectively investigated and anyone suspected to be responsible is brought to justice in a fair trial.

Yours sincerely,



Second UA: 21/24 Index: AFR 24/8083/2024 Equatorial Guinea Date: 29 May 2024

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Anacleto Micha Ndong is an Equatoguinean human rights defender, active on social media and a member of the civic platform, Guinea Ecuatorial también es nuestra, that opts for non-violent opposition and political dialogue in the country.

On January 26, Anacleto Micha was arrested in his house in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea's capital, by four members of security forces in civilian clothes. Witnesses to his arrest described it as a very violent event. The gendarmerie officers beat him, allegedly put his head in a bucket of water and tore his shirt in front of his children who were crying in panic.

His ongoing detention seems to be motivated by his activism, especially his critical posts against the government on social media, which would make it arbitrary.

After several attempts to meet privately with his client, on April 10, Anacleto Micha's lawyer received an official letter authorizing him to visit his client on April 15 at Black Beach prison. That day, when the lawyer went to the prison, he was informed that his client was not there because he had left to testify in Court. The lawyer later found out that this was not true and that his client was not at Black Beach prison because, according to unofficial sources, he had been transferred to Oveng Ansem prison.

Oveng Ansem is a prison in Mongomo municipality with a very concerning record of allegations from prisoners who report having been tortured there. Some prisoners have also allegedly died due to the torture inflicted on them, including Julio Obama Mefuman, member of MLGE3R (Movement for the Liberation of the Third Equatorial Guinea), who died in January 2024. His body was never returned to his family.

PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET: Spanish, English, or your own language.

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: July 24, 2024

NAME AND PRONOUN: Anacleto Micha Ndong (he/his/him)

LINK TO PREVIOUS UA: https://www.amnestyusa.org/urgent-actions/urgent-action-jailed-human-rights-defender-at-risk-of-torture-equatorial-quinea-21-24/