

**Action: Equatorial Guinea: Fears for health of detained female activist**

**Act By: 9/14/2013**

**Sponsor: Amnesty International**

**Other Contact Info: [UrgentAction@amnesty.ca](mailto:UrgentAction@amnesty.ca)**

**Action Site: <http://www.amnesty.ca/urgentaction/>**

**African Charter Article# 12:** Every individual shall have the right to freedom of movement and residence, the right to leave any country, and to seek asylum.

**Summary & Comment:** When Clara Nsegue Eyí protested the violation of her right under Article 13, Universal Declaration of Human Rights to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state, authorities detained her. She now requires urgent medical assistance. Please intervene with messages to targets below. JS

UA 210/13

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5 August 2013

Political activist Clara Nsegue Eyí has been in detention without charge or trial in Equatorial Guinea for over one month for refusing to obey a ministerial order confining her to her native town. She is believed to be in poor health and may require urgent treatment.

**Background:**

Clara Nsegue Eyí, also known as “Lola” is the founder of the political party, Democratic Party for Social Justice (Partido Democrático de la Justicia Social – PDJS), which the authorities refuse to register. She is also a teacher and one of the coordinators of the People’s Protest Movement (Movimiento de Protesta Popular).

She was arrested by the police, without a warrant, in the capital, Malabo, in late June 2013 and sent to the town of Mongomo, in north east of mainland Equatorial Guinea. She was initially imprisoned in a military barracks for around two weeks. In mid-July, she was transferred to the Gendarmerie [police station] where she continues to be held without charge.

Clara Nsegue Eyí was arrested for disobeying a minister’s order to remain in Mongomo, the town where she was born, although she lives in Malabo.

Amnesty International has received information that Clara Nsegue Eyí is seriously ill and that she has a tumour for which she requires urgent treatment. People who have seen her in prison stated that she has lost a lot of weight and looks unwell. A doctor visited her in prison and reportedly ordered her transfer to a hospital, preferably outside Equatorial Guinea, for urgent treatment.

Clara Nsegue Eyí was first arrested on 13 May 2013, in connection with a planned demonstration organized by the People’s Protest Movement to protest at the authorities’ refusal to legalize the PDJS. She was sent to Mongomo and imprisoned without charge or trial in the town’s Gerdarmerie, from where she was released on 27 May, the day after general elections. She was ordered not to leave Mongomo. However, around mid-June she decided to return to Malabo where she normally resides. Police arrested her about two weeks later.

**Actions you can take:**

**Please send a letter or fax without delay. (Postage is \$1.85.)**

- Call for the immediate and unconditional release of Clara Nsegue Eyí, who appears to be a prisoner of conscience, arrested solely for her peaceful political activities and for refusing to obey a minister’s illegal order confining her to her town of origin despite the fact that she no longer lives there.
- Call for Clara Nsegue Eyí to be given immediate access to urgent medical care in an appropriate medical centre.

**Here is the contact information you need:**

(If faxing, please try between 8.30 a.m. and 3.30 p.m. GMT. Machines are often switched off at night.)

Attorney General:

David Nguema Obiang

Fiscal General de la República

Fiscalía General de la República

Malabo, Equatorial Guinea

Fax: [011 240 333 09 1338](tel:011240333091338) or 011 240 333 09 4961

Salutation: Dear Attorney General

Minister of Interior and Local Administration:

Clemente Engonga Nguema

Ministro de Interior y Corporaciones Locales

Ministerio del Interior y Corporaciones Locales

Malabo, Equatorial Guinea

Fax: [011 240 333 09 2683](tel:011240333092683) or 011 240 333 09 3406

Salutation: Dear Minister

**Please send copies to:**

His Excellency Anatolio Ndong Mba

c/o Permanent Mission to the UN of Equatorial Guinea

800 Second Avenue, Suite 305

New York, NY 10017

Fax: [1 212 223-2366](tel:12122232366)

and

Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo

Presidente de la República

Gabinete del Presidente

Palacio de la Presidencia

Malabo, Equatorial Guinea

Fax: [011 240 333 09 3313](tel:011240333093313) or 011 240 333 09 0267

Salutation: Excellency

**Additional information:**

The Democratic Party for Social Justice (Partido Democrático de la Justicia Social - PDJS) was founded in January 2013 but the authorities have refused to legalise it.

In late April 2013 the People's Protest Movement (Movimiento de Protesta Popular), which comprises individuals as well as some political opposition parties, was created, partly to protest at the refusal of the authorities to legalize the PDJS and to demand fundamental freedoms and dialogue with the government.

On 2 May the People's Protest Movement informed the authorities in writing of their intention to stage a peaceful demonstration on 15 May. However, the Minister of Interior reportedly told some of the organizers, verbally, that they had no permission to demonstrate, although under Equatorial Guinean law permission is not required.

On the day of the planned demonstration, there was a heavy police and military presence in the streets of Malabo. They cordoned off the city centre and the demonstration was aborted. Between 8 and 15 May 2013 about 12 people connected to the organization of the demonstration were arrested by the police and held without charge. They included Clara Nsegue Eyí. Some were released after a couple of days. Most were released on 27 May, the day after voting in general elections took place.

Equatorial Guineans voted on 26 May to elect a new parliament, over 230 local councillors and, for the first time, 55 of the 70 members of the new Senate. The remaining 15 are appointed directly by President

Obiang Nguema. The elections were won by the ruling Democratic Party of Equatorial Guinea (Partido Democrático de Guinea Ecuatorial) which obtained 99 per cent of the vote.

One month after the elections, another demonstration organized by the opposition political party Convergence for Social Democracy (Convergencia para la Democracia Social – CPDS) to protest at the electoral irregularities was also banned by the authorities, who cited security reasons. Once again, police and military personnel were out in force in the streets of Malabo and surrounded the CPDS's office. The demonstration was then suspended.