Minister of Justice, Religious Affairs & Penitentiry Institutions

Mr Salvador Ondo Ncumu

Ministry of Justice, Religious Affairs & Penitentiary Institutions

Malabo II, Frente al Ministerio de Comercio

Equatorial Guinea

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Dear Minister,

Please allow me to draw your attention to the following. I am extremely concerned for the life and health of human rights defender Joaquín Elo Ayeto. He is in urgent need of medical assistance while he is in detention at Black Beach Prison. For the last couple of weeks he has been experiencing severe diarrhea and high fever. On 5 August, Joaquín’s lawyer wrote to the judge asking for his client’s immediate transfer to a hospital. There has been no response. He has been detained since 25 February and has had no access to his family or lawyers for several weeks.

I kindly urge you, as Minister of Justice, to ensure that Joaquín has immediate access to the health care he needs, including transfer to a hospital if needed.

In addition, we believe that Joaquín should be immediately and unconditionally released because he has been arbitrarily detained. The circumstances of his arrest and the fact that the charges against him are constantly changing seems to indicate that he is detained solely for the peaceful exercise of his human rights.

Lastly, pending Joaquín Elo Ayeto’s transfer and release, I urge you to make sure that all measures are taken to guarantee that he is not subjected again to any ill-treatment and that he is granted access to his family and lawyers.

Yours sincerely,