

CHARTER OF THE AWARENESS LEAGUE

The AWARENESS LEAGUE, NIGERIA, was founded as a social libertarian organisation inspired by and committed to the ideals, principles, objectives, goals, ends and purposes of revolutionary socialism and anarcho-syndicalism, characterised as the anti-theses ^{of Capital} and statism as well as their manifestations and institutions thereof.

With capitalism enmeshed in interminable crisis and its institutions - social, economic, political and cultural - increasingly succumbing to fatigue across the globe, the imperative for sustained struggle against the forces of capitalism has never been greater. It is instructive to note that the crisis of capitalism has been most intensive and pronounced in the underdeveloped third world countries.

This is not surprising, to say the least; capitalism's chain was bound to break at its weakest links. Essentially, however, the crisis of capitalism as well as its contradictions retain a global character expressed everywhere in burgeoning deficits and external debts, trade wars, rising cost of living and declining standard of living worldwide, industrial stagnation and institutional decay.

Inherent in capitalism's crisis is the ever-present contradiction between labour and capital. The process of this development takes the form of class conflicts. At every point in time, the dominant class in society seeks to exploit its access to the means of production to appropriate a disproportionate value of social production to the benefit of membership whose prerogative it is also, to decide what is to be produced, how and when. Since they do not have any interest in preserving the prevailing order the disadvantaged class(es), on the other hand, persist in fighting for the overthrow of the system and the enthroning of a people-based order.

AWARENESS LEAGUE believes that an understanding of the structure, values, reflexes and tendencies of the capitalist mode of production in all its ramifications is crucial to understanding the origins and direction of the present crisis - including the class relations of ~~the~~ production. Indeed the cross current of economic ruptures such as inflation, unemployment and mass poverty set in motion by this development are necessary outcomes of the unequal and exploitative character of the global capitalist intercourse expressed in the third world's peripheral participation in it.

Attempts so far to comprehend the crisis of capitalism have tended to exhibit an obsession with equilibrium in a world economy that has demonstrated an incredible capacity for change. The approach fails to recognise the fundamental conflicts in production; the struggle for the control of surplus by the various arms and agencies of capital as well as the state, which is central to capitalist production and crisis.

This is where revolutionary syndicalism comes in. In contradistinction to the evils and failings of capital, AWARENESS LEAGUE posits syndicalism as a qualitatively superior alternative with capacity for a revolutionary transformation of society. Revolutionary syndicalism emphasises the overriding place of class unity, class cohesion and class consciousness among all workers, the peasantry and all other exploited social groups. The primacy of sustained class struggle as an instrument of liberation from the yoke of capital is underlined by the fact that capitalism and capitalists will not give up without some fight.

PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES :

The ends of class struggle as AWARENESS LEAGUE perceives it, constitute in the abolition of the state system, its structures, institutions, values, privileges and manifestations such as elections and political systems and legislative and judicial processes; their replacement with self-managing, self-governing and self-accounting units organised along the lines of libertarian communism, while participation in them shall be on the basis of equality and the expression of the peoples' free will. These ends do not however include the capture and or exercise of state (political) power either directly or indirectly or through the imposition of a dictatorship of the proletariat.

AWARENESS LEAGUE insists that a radical transformation of the existing land tenure and land ownership systems as well as property relations is central to the achievement of the objective of the socialisation of the means of production.

Revolutionary syndicalism proceeds from the education of the masses and all working peoples, enhancement of their consciousness and their mobilisation towards the goal of socialisation of means of production using as instruments in this regard strikes, boycotts, sit-ins as well as other forms of mass action identified and sanctioned by members. Besides, AWARENESS LEAGUE may forge alliances, seek collaboration and working agreements with other leftists and leftist organisations, anti-~~war~~ movement as well as human rights activists, groups and mass organisations.

The AWARENESS LEAGUE upholds the principles and dictates of internationalism convinced that national boundaries and territoriality are but artificial creations. The LEAGUE stands for and is committed to PEACE and rejects WAR, militarism, fascism and racism as well as the acquisition and development of technologies that promote war and militarism and, in turn, undermine peace and peaceful co-existence among nations. The LEAGUE advocates violence only as a form of resistance to the violence and violent methods and tactics of the ruling class, its agencies and collaborators or as a form of liberation struggle. To this end, AWARENESS LEAGUE, as an anarcho-syndicalist and revolutionary socialist front ^{as the enemy-in-chief, among others} proclaims all over the world and insists that no form of collaboration can exist between the ruling classes - the exploiter and their victims, the masses.

MEMBERSHIP: membership and participation in the activities of the AWARENESS LEAGUE are open to all Nigerians and non-Nigerians alike, irrespective of age, gender, creed or clan. Provided that all such or prospective members are committed and subscribe to the ends, objectives and purposes of revolutionary syndicalism.



P R E S S R E L E A S E

Workers Solidarity Alliance

U.S. Section of the International Workers Association

339 Lafayette St., Room 202, New York, NY 10012 (212) 979-8353

PR 93-13

15 October 1993

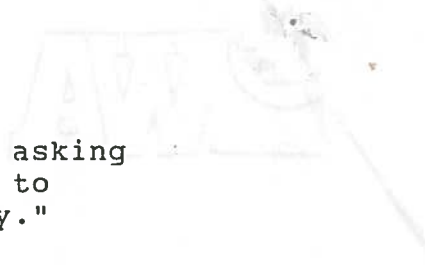
UPDATE ON NIGERIAN AWARENESS LEAGUE PRISONERS

As previously reported, the four Nigerian Awareness League prisoners, James Ndubisi (General Secretary), Garba Audu, Kingsley Etioni and Chuks Udemba, were arrested in May 1992 during the popular protests that swept the country. The protests were against the economic and social policies of the military dictatorship of General Babangida, and the austerity policies of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank. The protests were also aimed at Babangida's continued stay in office and continued manipulation of the political process. The protests were nationwide in character and led to the indefinite closing of all federally funded Universities and Polytechnic in Nigeria. The four members of the libertarian socialist and anarchist unionist (anarcho-syndicalist) Awareness League, were arrested in the town of Enugu, the eastern regional capital while taking part in the protests. According to the Awareness League, over 2000 people were arrested nationwide following the protests.

After spending a long period in detention, under harsh conditions, the four AL members were released earlier this year. The four AL members won a reprieve from the courts, a rare thing under the Babangida dictatorship. Their bail was, however, conditional as they were instructed to report daily to the office of State Security Police (SSS). Despite their conditional freedom, two of the AL members were detained because, according to the SSS they violated the terms of their bail. None of the AL members are, however, currently being detained.

According to a recent AL information release, the "psychological warfare and harassment of the State" continues. State repression consists of occasional raids on AL members homes, with the SSS "display[ing]...their names in their offices, organized house searches, etc. ... Two members of the League, including the [AL] coordinator Samuel Mbah, were arrested in the beginning of August 1993, following a[final]crack-down of the Babangida Dictatorship." The two AL members were later released by the newly installed interim government, whose leaders were hand-picked by General Babangida.

.../...



The Awareness League is continuing their fight and are asking all concerned workers, students and friends of freedom to continue to send their "material and moral...solidarity."

To date such solidarity has helped the AL comrades to carry out their work, and has prevented the authorities from taking harsher repressive measures against the AL..

Your support and solidarity are still needed! Please send International Money Orders or U.K. Bank Cheques directly to: **Awareness League c/o Samuel Mbah, Post Office Box 28, Agbani, Enugu State, Nigeria.** Please seal the envelope to conceal its actual contents. Contributions should be sent Express Mail to enable the AL to meet their immediate needs. Please use all precautions by concealing the contents so as to beat mail thieves.

For additional information, including the AL Charter and 1993 Annual Report, please contact the Workers Solidarity Alliance. Please enclose a donation to cover the costs of printing/postage.





P R E S S R E L E A S E

Workers Solidarity Alliance

U.S. Section of the International Workers Association

339 Lafayette St., Room 202, New York, NY 10012 (212) 979-8353

PR 93-04

March 29, 1993

UPDATE ON AWARENESS LEAGUE OF NIGERIA

As we informed you in our update of 1st of February, 1993, hearing in the substantive suit instituted by our Attorney challenging the detention of our four colleagues and seeking the court's declaration that the detention without trial for seven months was illegal, unconstitutional and a violation of their fundamental human rights, did come up on the 18th February, 1993.

At the hearing, the government lawyer raised a preliminary objection challenging the jurisdiction of the state high court to hear the action. Ruling on the objections was adjourned till 23rd February on which date the Court quashed the objection and held that it had jurisdiction to entertain the suit. Judgement in the main suit is not expected before the end of April, 1993.

Meanwhile our colleagues are now required to report on a daily basis to the Nigerian Secret Police, State Security Service (SSS). At the same time, we are continuing with efforts to have them fully reintegrated into the society after the serious dislocation that lasted seven months. They are responding, but rather very slowly as they are still very ill.

On the political scene, the situation in the country has not improved one bit. Repression is mounting. Workers have been on strike nationwide since the last week of January against the background of worsening economic conditions. With each passing day there is growing apprehension that General Babangida will shortly proclaim himself President-for-Life. Only a couple of weeks ago, a tribunal sentenced six opposition elements including a retired Major General in the Army on trumped up charges. The men will be executed any moment.

We shall keep you informed about the situation and any further developments. We shall, no doubt, appreciate further financial/material support.

Yours in the Struggle,
for AWARENESS LEAGUE

IFEANYI CHUKWU
Acting National Secretary

All correspondence should be addressed to: Awareness League C/o Samuel Mbah
P.O.Box 28, Agbani, Enugu State, Nigeria

Holding aloft the banner of the struggle

Workers Solidarity Alliance-IWA

339 Lafayette St., Room 202, New York, NY 10012 (212) 979-8353

P R E S S R E L E A S E

#2

22 February 1993

NIGERIAN LIBERTARIAN SOCIALISTS FREED, MATERIAL AID STILL NEEDED

On 29 January 1993, the four imprisoned members of the libertarian socialist Awareness League (see WSA PR92-06, 10/92), Udemba Chuks, Garba Audu, Kingsley Etioni and General Secretary James Ndubuisi, were conditionally released from jail. They had spent eight long, hard months in prison. They were arrested in June 1992 after a wave of worker and student protests hit the country against continued military rule, political and union repression and against the austerity programs imposed by the International Monetary Fund and World Bank.

According to the Awareness League, the prisoners "looked badly emaciated, weak and sick. The League's Secretary... was the worst hit..."

The four were released on bail but they must now report weekly to the secret police, State Security Services. It is feared that the four would be re-arrested at anytime under the infamous Decree #2 ("Security Detention of Persons decree" of 1985). In fact, after the court's ruling there was an attempt to have the four re-arrested but this did not happen due to the intervention of about 100 supporters of the Awareness League. Many of these supporters came from around the country to view the trial, as well as many journalists, activists and members of the Nigeria Bar Association.

The trial itself is historic since it challenges the very basis of Decree #2 (which allows the authorities to detain at will and indefinitely all persons, the decree further denies legal recourse). The trial on the issues at hand is currently in progress.

The Awareness League foresees a "fierce legal and psychological battle ahead... and, thus, we intend to maintain a round the clock vigilance."

Furthermore the Awareness League believes they are now "entering a new phase in our struggle. Suffice it to say that this new phase is as crucial [as getting their members freed], if not more crucial." They believe that the legal fight will be tough. The fight is not only for their members, but also for the many "innocent Nigerians languishing in jail and illegal detention across the country."

.../...

International efforts are still needed to aid the Nigerian's in their struggle against Decree #2; against the forces of continued repression; freedom for all political prisoners and against the International Monetary Fund and World Bank imposed austerity programs.

"The Awareness League asks for "your continued moral and material support. This support is needed now more than at any other time before."

"The Nigerian comrades are in need of financial support to help them with their continued legal costs (of about \$12,000-US). Financial contributions should be sent by way of International Money Order or United Kingdom Bank Cheques. These should be sent in a neatly sealed envelope to conceal its actual contents. Such precautions should be taken so as to beat mail thieves. The Awareness League requests that such contributions be sent by express mail to enable them to meet their immediate needs.

Such contributions should be addressed as follows:

**Awareness League
c/o Samuel Mbah
Post Office Box 28
Agbani, Enugu State
NIGERIA**

PARTIAL VICTORY FOR NIGERIAN LIBERTARIAN SOCIALISTS

Libertarian socialist and syndicalist prisoners from Nigeria's Awareness League (AL) - Udemba Chuks, Garba Adu, Kingsley Etioni, and James Ndubuisi - won some reprieve January 29th when they were conditionally released on bail. They must, however, report to the State Security Service each week.

The four were arrested in June 1992 during a wave of worker and student protests against International Monetary Fund and World Bank imposed austerity plans and the continued lack of union and political freedom of association and expression. The four were detained under the notorious "Security Detention of Persons Decree" -- or simply Decree # 2 -- of 1985. The law allows the government to detain individuals at will for an indefinite period of time and denies them the right to legal recourse.

At a Calabar court hearing on January 25th their lawyer, Ifeanyi Nnajiolor (who is a noted constitutional lawyer), demanded a grant for bail. Such was received. On hand were 100 AL members plus, according to the AL, "scores of journalists, activists, members of the Nigerian Bar Association and interested members of the public." Then on January 29th "we won our greatest legal battle yet ... [when for] the first time we would set our eyes on them in seven months. [The four AL members] looked badly emaciated, weak and sick."

Setting a legal precedent and cutting a small piece out of Decree #2, the judge granted bail, and set the next court appearance for February 18th. Then as the four left the court "there was an attempt", according to the AL, "to have our colleagues re-arrested outside the premises, but this was stoutly resisted by the crowd." The four were promptly hospitalized and advised to have a two week stay.

Despite their conditional freedom, the AL has information that the military may try to have them rearrested once again. This comes as no surprise and would not be uncommon in Nigeria. The judiciary and the military government from time to time are at odds. And the military would like to continue their repression of activists.

At press time there is no fresh information on the trial of the AL members.

The struggle for the freedom of the AL members and all political prisoners in Nigeria has taken on international dimensions. The U.S. Workers Solidarity Alliance (WSA-IWA) and Neither East Nor West-New York City (NENW-NYC) have successfully launched an international campaign in solidarity with the Awareness League. A week of peaceful protests at Nigerian consulates, embassies and airlines was called for the week of February 22-26. Confirmed protests by anarchists and others took place in New York City, Dublin, London, Moscow and Hamburg. (Libertarian socialists and syndicalists were ready to demonstrate in Bulgaria and Norway but they lacked Nigerian consulates, etc.).

Other forms of solidarity and protest came from India, Norway,

Estonia, Germany, England, Italy, Canada, USA, Poland, S. Africa, Brasil, S. Korea, Turkey, Bulgaria, Spain, Russia and Holland by way of protest letters and petitions demanding the release of the AL members, freedom for all political prisoners, an end to military repression and an end to the IMF and World Bank austerity measures.

Furthermore, articles have appeared in the syndicalist and libertarian socialist press in France, Switzerland, Ireland, USA, Italy, Spain, Poland, Russia and Bulgaria. The U.S anarchist paper Love and Rage mailed a special appeal to their readers. Generous financial aid has been given by the International Workers Association (IWA-AIT-AIL) and the Spanish National Confederation of Labor (CNT-AIT). Financial aid has also been given by anarchist, anarchist unionist and libertarian socialists in the US, Italy and Ireland.

The issue of financial assistance is of special priority. Ifeanyi Nnaji for, the AL's lawyer, must travel 1000 kilometers from Lagos to Calabar, Nigeria. In addition, the AL continues to provide relief to the families of the four men and have medical bills to pay for. As of their last communication (Feb.1), the AL owes their lawyer "more than 60% of his professional fee." Ifeanyi is being extremely thoughtful and generous according to the AL, but his expenses, as well as others must be paid.

We believe that the libertarian socialist and anarchist unionist movement abroad have played an extremely important role in helping the AL financially. Well over \$1000 (US) has been sent by the movement to the AL so far. It is no exaggeration to state that the international campaign played a part in the AL's bail victory, possibly saving the lives of the four (you don't get fed in Nigerian jails). Our campaign has been active since the Fall of last year and will continue.

Your financial assistance is very much needed. Please send International Money Orders or U.K. Bank Cheques directly to: AL c/o Samuel Mbah, POB 28, Agbani, Enugu State, Nigeria. Please neatly seal the envelope to conceal its actual contents. Contributions should be sent express mail to enable the AL to meet their immediate needs. Please use all precautions by concealing the contents so as to beat mail thieves.

For additional information, please contact: WSA, 339 Lafayette Street, Rm. 202, NY, NY 10012, USA. Tel: +212-979-8353 or NENW-NYC, 528 5th St., Brooklyn, NY 11215, USA.

Please let us know if you sent a donation and the amount. Thanks for your solidarity!

By Mike Harris, WSA - IWA
Bob McGlynn, NENW-NYC

FREEDOM FOR IMPRISONED NIGERIAN WORKERS STUDENTS AND ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS!

PICKET NIGERIAN CONSULATE

DATE: Friday, February 26, 1993

TIME: 4:30 - 6:00 P.M.

PLACE: Nigerian Consulate,
575 Lexington Avenue, between 50/51 Sts.

This peaceful protest is being called in response to the on-going suppression of labor and human rights by the Nigerian government of General Ibrahim Babangida. Despite the General's stated goal of transferring governmental power from a military run to a civilian run government, this has not happened. The military has cancelled two civilian elections and has banned oppositional political activity, has closed federally funded universities due to political opposition from the teachers and student union's, has arrested countless individuals and opposition activists and has banned union meetings, among other repressive acts. This is in part due to an International Monetary Fund imposed austerity plan, and in part due to the repressive nature of the Babangida regime.

During a wave of worker and student strikes in June 1992 the military government arrested, among others, members of the oppositional Awareness League. After being imprisoned for eight long months, and under harsh conditions, the four imprisoned Awareness League members (Udemba Chuks, Garba Adu, Kingsley Etioni and General Secretary James Ndubuisi) were conditionally released on January 29, 1993. The four, however, can be reimprisoned at any time. Besides these four members of the Awareness League many more political prisoners continue to be held in Nigerian jails. One such political prisoner is Femi Falana of the Committee for the Defense of Human Rights. All political prisoners are held under Decree Number 2 known as the "Security Detention of Persons Decree" of 1985.

The Decree allows the government to detain and imprison individuals indefinitely at will. The Decree further denies legal recourse and denies jurisdiction by Nigerian court's to entertain any matter related to the arrest of an individual under this Decree.

Sponsored by Workers Solidarity Alliance and Neither East Nor West
339 Lafayette St., Rm. 202, NY, NY 10012. Tel. 212-979-8353 or 718-499-7720

PRESS RELEASE



Workers Solidarity Alliance

U.S. Section of the International Workers Association
339 Lafayette St., Room 202, New York, NY 10012 (212) 979-8353

AN INTERNATIONAL CALL FOR DEMONSTRATIONS DEMANDING: THE RELEASE OF IMPRISONED NIGERIAN WORKERS, STUDENTS AND LIBERTARIAN SOCIALISTS February 22 -26, 1993

In an effort to shed its image as a repressive military dictatorship, the Nigerian government of General Ibrahim Babangida has called for civilian elections in 1993. Such a call is questionable in and of itself since the military government has set-up the two competing parties.

According to the Nigerian libertarian-socialist Awareness League, the transition from a military to a civilian government has been characterized by arbitrary detention's, a ban on political activities, the closing of federally funded universities, repression against workers including union bannings, and other repressive activities. This is all complicated by a mounting external debt, soaring inflation and attendant social problems, with Nigeria under the thumb of a vicious IMF/World Bank austerity program. Among the victims of the state's repression are four members of the Awareness League; Udemba Chuks, Garba Adu, Kingsley Etioni, and General Secretary James Ndubuisi. They were arrested following a wave of worker and student protests across the country since June 1992. They have been held in prison under extremely inhumane conditions ever since. Among the many other victims are: Veko Ansome-Kuti, chairperson of the Committee for the Defense of Human Rights; Gani Fawehinmi and Femi Falana, well known constitutional lawyers and human rights activists; and Segun Maiyegun, a leader of the National Association of Nigerian Students.

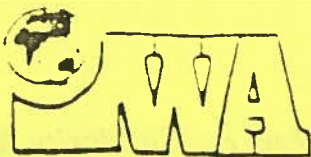
During the week of February 22-26 the US Workers Solidarity Alliance and Neither East Nor West-NYC are calling for:

- Peaceful international pickets and protests at Nigerian embassies and consulates demanding the release of Chuks, Adu, Etioni, Ndubisi and all political prisoners, plus an end to repression against workers, students and their organizations.
- If there is no consulate or embassy in your area, please send protest letters addressed to General Ibrahim Babangida and mail it to the Workers Solidarity Alliance who'll get them to Nigeria.
- Please mail accounts and photos of your demonstrations to the Workers Solidarity Alliance.

Workers Solidarity Alliance, 339 Lafayette St. Rm.202, NY, NY 10012, US, Tel.:212-979-8353

Other useful contacts: Awareness League, c/o Samuel Mbah, POB 28, Agbani Via Enugu, Anambra State, Nigeria; The Axe/Association of Libertarian Socialists, GPO Box 12859, Dugbe, Ibadan, Nigeria; Civil Liberties Organization, 24 Mbono Ojike St., off Alhaji Masha RD., Surulere, Lagos, Nigeria, Tel.:840288; Committee for the Defense of Human Rights, 8 Imaria St., Anthony Village, POB 7247, Lagos, Nigeria, Tel.:960363; Campaign for Democracy, 8 Imaria St. Anthony Village, Lagos, Nigeria, Tel.:966555; Neither East Nor West, 528 5th St., Brooklyn, NY 11215, US, Tel:718-499-7720; Committee for Academic Freedom in Africa, Silvia Federici, New College, Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY 11550, US, Tel:516-463-5838/ George Caffentzis, Department of Philosophy, University of Southern Maine, Portland, ME 04103, US, Tel:207-780-4330

IN NEW YORK CITY THERE WILL BE A PICKET AND PROTEST AT THE
NIGERIAN CONSULATE
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1993
4:30 TO 6:00 PM
575 LEXINGTON AVENUE (BETWEEN 50/51 STREETS)
BRING YOUR BANNERS AND PICKET SIGNS. ALL OUT FOR FEBRUARY 26TH!



P R E S S R E L E A S E

Workers Solidarity Alliance

U.S. Section of the International Workers Association

339 Lafayette St., Room 202, New York, NY 10012 (212) 979-8353

1 de Enero 1993

CONTACTO:

W.S.A.-A.I.T. (212) 979 8353

Bob Mc Glynn (718) 499 7720 (inglés solamente)

A TODO MUNDO LIBERTARIO Y REVOLUTIONARY SINDICALISTA:

SOLIDARIDAD CON LOS PRESOS

SOCIALISTAS LIBERTARIOS NIGERIANOS

FEBRERO 22 - 26, 1993

En un esfuerzo por desprenderse de su imagen de dictadura militar, el gobierno militar del General Ibrahim Babangida ha convocado elecciones civiles previstas para diciembre de este año. El gobierno ha organizado dos partidos políticos patrocinados por los militares: El Partido Social Democrático y la Convención nacional Republicana

Según la «Awareness League» (Liga de Vigilancia o conocimiento) socialista libertaria, el proceso de transición al poder civil ha estado caracterizado por aplazamientos, detenciones arbitrarias de algunos activistas políticos, prohibición de ciertas actividades políticas, imposición de edictos legales, reformas legales y toda clase de funcionamientos militaristas.

El auge de la represión que condiciona las elecciones nacionales se combina además con la deuda exterior

acumulada (alrededor de 40 billones de dólares), hiperinflación (320%) unida a los problemas sociales pendientes.

La creciente desesperación parte del gobierno, en los pasados 6 meses se manifestó en la clausura durante los 4 últimos meses de las Universidades autónomas y la persecución con cargos de delito de traición contra miembros del Sindicato del Profesorado de las Universidades y de la Asociación Nacional de Estudiantes Nigerianos. Proliferan los casos de hostigamientos contra periodistas y 3 periódicos han sido cerrados a la fuerza sin razón aparente.

Entre las víctimas de esta ola de represión están 4 miembros de la «Awareness League». Fueron arrestados después de una ola de protestas y manifestaciones estudiantiles y obreras a lo largo del país en los últi-

mos 3 meses y han permanecido cluidos bajo condiciones extremadamente inhumanas desde entonces.

La «Awareness League» ha lanzado una campaña por su liberación, además de los otros militantes detenidos, mediante la acción legal y las protestas ciudadanas. Para ello necesita ayuda económica para poder pagar los servicios jurídicos y puedan asegurar la liberación de los detenidos; para ayudar a las familias y personas a su cargo mientras dure su detención y para llamar la atención de la opinión pública mediante publicaciones.

Cualquier ayuda económica o de otro tipo será muy apreciada para ir avanzando en la lucha por la libertad en esta parte del mundo.

Realizar los envíos a: Awareness League, c/ Samuel Mbah, PO Box 28, Agbani, Enugu State, Nigeria.

Durante la semana de Febrero 22 - 26, 1993 los Workers Solidarity Alliance y Neither East Nor West esta llamando para protestas internacional pacificas demandando la libertad inmediata miembros de la Awareness League Udemba Chucks, Garba Audu, Kingsley Etioni y James Ndubuisi. Tambien esta demandando para el terminar inmediato de la represión contra trabajadores/as, estudiantes y sus organizaciones.

Workers Solidarity Alliance-IWA

339 Lafayette St., Room 202, New York, NY 10012 (212) 979-8353

P R E S S R E L E A S E

NIGERIAN LIBERTARIAN SOCIALISTS REQUEST INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

In an effort to shed its image as a military dictatorship, the military government of General Ibrahim Babangida has called for civilian elections scheduled for December 1992. This government has set up two military sponsored political parties - the Social Democratic Party and the National Republican Convention.

According to the libertarian socialist Awareness League, the prosecution of the transition to civilian rule has been characterized by postponements, arbitrary detention of some political activists, cancellation of some political activities, imposition of outright ban on others, legal amendments and all kinds of militarist posturing. Nevertheless, the transition has advanced.

The growing repression leading up to the national elections is further compounded by mounting external debt (about \$40 billion US), soaring inflation (320%) coupled with attendant social problems.

Increased desperation on the part of the government in the past six months has been manifested in the closure for the past four months of all federally-owned Universities and prosecution on felony charges of treason against members of the Academic Staff Union of (Nigerian) Universities and National Association of Nigerian Students. Furthermore, cases of incessant harassment of journalists abound. And three newspapers have been forcibly been shut for no apparent reason.

Among the victims of this renewed wave of repression are four members of the Awareness League, Udemba Chuks, Garba Audu, Kingsley Etioni and the General Secretary James Ndubuisi. They were arrested following a wave of student and worker protests and demonstrations across the country in the past three months and have remained in confinement under extremely inhumane conditions ever since.

The Awareness League has launched a campaign to have them freed along with other detained activists. This campaign has resulted in legal action in addition to civil protest.

"It is apparent", writes the Awareness League in their international appeal, "that we can not sustain the campaign without substantial support and help... We are therefore appealing for financial aid or any other form of aid or assistance in kind from your [organization] to enable us to:

- o Pay for legal services to secure the release/freedom of the detained activists.
- o Cater for the families and dependants of the detained activists for the period of their detention.
- o Publicize and bring to the attention of the public the plight of the four detained activists, by producing publications.
- o Handle other related logistical problems.

.../...

Any amount of money or other form of assistance will be highly appreciated as this will go a long way in further advancing the struggle for freedom and liberty in this part of the world."

Your aid and assistance should be sent as follows:

Awareness League
c/o Samuel Mbah
P.O. Box 28
Agbani
Enugu State
Nigeria

WSA Press release 92-06

October 1992