

Minister of Justice, Religious Affairs & Penitentiary Institutions
Mr. Salvador Ondo Ncumu
Ministry of Justice, Religious Affairs & Penitentiary Institutions
Malabo II, Frente al Ministerio de Comercio
EQUATORIAL GUINEA

Noordwijk, the Netherlands, February 2020

Dear Minister,

I am writing you to bring to your attention the case of human rights defender Joaquín Elo Ayeto, a member of Somos+ Platform and the political opposition party Convergence for Social Democracy. He was arbitrarily arrested on 25 February 2019 and tried for defamation and threats against the President on 21 November. During trial the prosecutor was not able to prove any of the charges against him. I am also concerned about reports that Joaquín Elo Ayeto has been transferred to an incommunicado cell in Black Beach Prison with poor hygiene conditions.

The circumstances of his arrest and development around his trial indicate that he is detained solely for the peaceful exercise of his human rights. I therefore urge you, as Minister of Justice, to immediately and unconditionally release Joaquín Elo Ayeto. Pending his release, please grant him access to his family and lawyers and provide him with adequate medical treatment.

I am kindly awaiting your reply.

Yours sincerely,