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To: Government of Nigeria

From: International Non-Governmental Organizations, Indigenous Peoples Organizations and Nations,

Mr. Saro-Wiwa, an advocate for what he saw are the appropriate rights of the Ogoni people, had participated actively at the 10th session of the United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Populations. It was obvious that his remarks were not well received or appreciated by the government of Nigeria. Information has come to our attention of the present situation of Mr. Ken Saro-Wiwa's incarceration at Port Harcourt where he is being denied adequate medical attention recommended by not only his personal physician but even police medical advise. He is in critical condition, suffering from coronary heart disease and should be immediately transferred to the intensive care unit of the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital.

This information gives us great concern, not only on the purely humanitarian basis of providing adequate medical attention to Mr. Saro-Wiwa, but also with regards to possible government retaliation for his exercise of speech and opinion at this international forum.

Mr. Ken Saro-Wiwa was recently arrested and charged on 21 June 1993 under the Criminal Code of Eastern Nigeria for a number of crimes:

unlawfully assembled at the said place with intent to carry out unlawful purpose on the 12th of June 1993 by causing a breach of public peace in Khana and Gokana local Government areas of Rivers State and thereby they committed an offence punishable under Section 70 of Criminal Code

conferred with others at large to do an act with seditious intention

published a seditious publication by printing a flag known as Ogoni National flag

published a seditious publication by publishing an anthem known as Ogoni National anthem

His lawyer has attempted to obtain his release on bail, especially because of his physical condition. The court has refused bail. This, in effect, may be a life sentence for him without even benefit of trial.

We, the undersigned, appeal to the government to cease from any action taken against Mr. Saro-Wiwa based on his participation at the U.N. Working Group on Indigenous Populations. We further ask for a humanitarian response to his present medical needs.

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