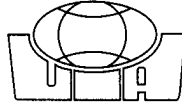


# UNION INTERNATIONALE DES AVOCATS

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LAWYERS  
INTERNATIONALE ANWALTS-UNION



UNION INTERNACIONAL DE ABOGADOS  
UNIONE INTERNAZIONALE DEGLI AVVOCATI

الاتحاد الدولي للمحامين

## **MOTION IN FAVOUR OF BAR PRESIDENT AGBOYIBO**

### **HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEFENCE OF THE DEFENCE COMMISSIONS**

On the occasion of the 45<sup>th</sup> Congress of the International Association of Lawyers, the Human Rights and Defence of the Defence Commissions of the International Association of Lawyers, which met on 31 August 2001 in Turin, have taken cognisance of the arrest and sentencing to 6 months of imprisonment of the former Bar President of Togo, Mr. Yawovi AGBOYIBO, on 6 August 2001, in Lomé, following a libel charge filed in 1998 by the present Prime Minister Kodjo AGBEYOME.

The way the proceedings have progressed, the circumstances of his recapture in June 2001 and the start of the trial shortly before the parliamentary elections in Togo, expected to be held in October 2001, underline the eminently political character of this case, directed against the person who presides the "Comité d'Action pour le Renouveau" (Committee for Action for Revival), one of the main parties opposing President Eyadema.

However, the way the trial has evolved, the severity of the sentence and the disproportionate nature of the immediate arrest in spite of an appeal having been filed, whereas neither the gravity of the infringement nor a risk of flight justified such measures, reveal the sentencing and imprisonment of Bar President AGBOYIBO as reprehensible acts.

Consequently, the Human Rights and Defence of the Defence Commissions are asking for the immediate release of Bar President AGBOYIBO and have intervened with the Togolese authorities and the judges in the Court of Appeal so that his case is called up quickly and examined with all guarantees of fairness in the appraisal of proofs and the pronouncement of a judgement in compliance with Human Rights, as well as in the presumption of innocence and the right to defence.

*Prepared in Turin on 31 August 2001*