

URGENT ACTION

CARTOONIST AND ACTIVIST ABLE TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY
Equatorial Guinean cartoonist and activist Ramón Esono Ebalé was finally able to leave Equatorial Guinea on 28 May after he was issued a passport by the authorities.

Equatorial Guinea authorities issued cartoonist and activist **Ramón Esono Ebalé** with a passport on 23 May. This enabled him to finally leave the country on 28 May, more than two months after his release from prison. He will be reunited with his wife and daughter whom he has not seen since his arrest.

Ramón Esono Ebalé was released from Malabo prison of Black Beach on 7 March. Eight days before his release, the state dropped the charge of 'counterfeiting money' against Ramón after the state's main witness retracted his testimony and admitted that he had been asked to falsely accuse Ramón of counterfeiting activities .

Ramón was arrested and detained on 16 September 2017 in the capital of the country, Malabo and questioned over his cartoons, which criticised Equatorial Guinea's President Teodoro Obiang and his government. During his detention, Amnesty International considered Ramón Esono Ebalé to be a prisoner of conscience who had been detained solely for the peaceful exercise of his right to freedom of expression through art.

On behalf of Ramón, his family and his friends, we express thanks to all those who took action. Without your support, Ramón's release and reunion with his family would have not been possible.

Thank you to all those who sent appeals. No further action is requested from the UA network.

This is the first update of UA 89/18. Further information: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr24/8363/2018/en/>

Name: Ramón Esono Ebalé

Gender m/f: m

Further information on UA: 89/18 Index: AFR 24/8524/2018 Issue Date: 5 June 2018

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