

**His Excellency
Chief Dr. Ikedi Ohakim
Governor of Imo State
Executive Governor's Office
PMB 1183, Owerri
Nigeria**

, 2008

Excellency,

I share Amnesty International's concern about the continued detention of Patrick Okoroafor in Aba prison. He was fourteen years old when he was arrested in May in 1995 for alleged robbery, a crime he said he never committed. He was mistreated in police detention and on May 30 1997, at the age of sixteen, sentenced to death by the First Imo State Robbery and Firearms Tribunal without the right of appeal.

Both this death sentence of a minor and the denial of the right to appeal are in breach of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, ratified by Nigeria in 1983, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which Nigeria ratified in 1993 and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, ratified by Nigeria in 1991.

On October 18 2001, the High Court of Imo state ruled that "the order of sentence of death pronounced on the Applicant by 2nd respondent on the 30 of May 1997 be removed to this court and quashed for being illegal, null and void."

More than six years have passed since the High Court judgement and Okoroafor is still in Aba prison, waiting for his release. His long stay in prison has serious consequences for his health condition; he is suffering from asthma and the prison authorities state that "...his [asthma] attacks have become so frequent and life threatening that his continuous stay in prison is not in his medical interest as his condition worsens daily."

His continued detention is the product of injustice and a form of arbitrary detention. We therefore urge your Excellency, Governor of Imo State to release Okoroafor.

Yours sincerely,