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SWITZERLAND

Death during forcible deportation: an exchange of correspondence following the death of Samson Chukwu

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SUMMARY

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Samson Chukwu, a 27-year-old Nigerian asylum-seeker, died in a detention centre attached to Crêtelongue penitentiary, Granges (Canton of Valais), in the early hours of 1 May 2001, at the start of a forcible deportation operation. At the time of writing the exact cause of death remains unknown.

Following the death Amnesty International had an exchange of correspondence with the Valais authorities. Against the background of Samson Chukwu's death and several other deaths which have occurred in Europe, including Switzerland, in recent years following the use of dangerous methods of restraint during forcible deportation operations, and in view of persistent allegations of use of excessive force by police officers during deportations from Switzerland, Amnesty International emphasized that it is essential for all cantonal governments to review police restraint techniques and the relevant guidelines and training for police and medical personnel involved in deportation operations. The organization indicated some of the safeguards it believes should be taken into account.

KEYWORDS:

This report summarizes a 5-page document (1,784 words), *Switzerland - Death during forcible deportation: an exchange of correspondence following the death of Samson Chukwu* (AI Index: EUR 43/005/2001) issued by Amnesty International in May 2001. Anyone wishing further details or to take action on this issue should consult the full document. An extensive range of our materials on this and other subjects is available at <http://www.amnesty.org> and Amnesty International news releases can be received by email: <http://www.amnesty.org/news/emailnws.htm>

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