

I am writing this to express my grave concern for Alfredo Okenve, an well-known human rights defender in Equatorial Guinea, who was brutally attacked on 27 October by unknown armed men. He was later abandoned in a lonely area outside the city of Bata.

On Saturday 27 October, at around 8pm, He was in his car with his brother leaving their home in the neighborhood of Newton in the city of Bata. Just as they were leaving, a car blocked the road and two armed men dressed in plain clothes got out of the car and ordered him to get out of his car. They started beating him and dragged him to their vehicle and took him away leaving his brother inside the car. In a forested area, for almost two hours they severely beat him all over his body using the butts of their guns and sticks. They took away his personal belongings before abandoning him.

Alfredo Okenve is a well-known human rights defender and activist. He has been denouncing, nationally and internationally, regular patters of human rights violations and corruption. He is one of the Vice-presidents of Center for Development Studies and Initiatives (CEID), a human rights and development organization.

So I urge you to carry out immediately an independent and exhaustive investigation into the attack against the human rights defender Alfredo Okenve and brought those found to be responsible to justice as soon as possible.

I also urge you to take all measures, in accordance with those beneficiaries, to protect Alfredo Okenve and his colleagues from the Center for Development Studies and Initiatives (CEID) from any further attacks or threats.

Last but not the least, I urge you to ensure a safe and enabling environment for human rights defenders and activists to work without fear of punishment, reprisal, or intimidation.

Thank you for your prompt attention to the above.

Sincerely yours,