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## LETTERS/THE RELEASE OF NGUGI WA THIONG'O

The Editor  
*The Daily Nation*  
Nairobi, Kenya

8 December 1978

Dear Sir,

The prison gates have opened in Kenya. Tired compatriots, long behind bars, have stumbled out into the broad daylight of freedom. I congratulate President Daniel arap Moi on this new move to consolidate freedom and democracy in Kenya.

Let me first speak as a Kenyan. I am proud of this latest mood in the country. There is something fresh in the atmosphere.

Let me secondly speak as a Vice-President of the International Congress of African Studies, whose world assembly has just concluded in Kinshasa. The news of the release of political detainees in Kenya broke when the World Congress was still in session in Zaire. I was able to report to many delegates in Kinshasa who had expressed anxieties about intellectual and cultural freedom in Kenya that a new leaf had just been turned with the release of such figures as Ngugi wa Thiong'o and Martin Shikuku.