

# URGENT ACTION

## HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER RISKS 20 YEAR JAIL TERM Human rights defender Christopher Ngoyi Mutamba could face up to 20 years in prison if found guilty after participating in protests against government.

**Christopher Ngoyi Mutamba** was arrested on 21 January at around 8:30 pm, in Kalamu, a neighbourhood in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) after taking part in protests against the government. He was held in incommunicado detention for 20 days. On 10 February he was presented to the Minister of Interior and his case was transferred to the General Prosecutor's office. He has been detained at Makala prison in Kinshasa since 12 February. Christopher Ngoyi Mutamba is due to appear in court on 18 March.

Congolese authorities allege that Christopher Ngoyi Mutamba was one of the organizers of the protests held in Kinshasa between 19 and 21 January against proposed amendments to the electoral code law. Christopher Ngoyi Mutamba is charged with false rumours, propaganda, and incitement to racial hatred, civil disobedience and pillage.

Christopher Ngoyi Mutamba's prosecution could be politically motivated due to his activism against the constitutional amendments that would have allowed the extension of President Kabila's term in office. His earlier incommunicado detention calls into question whether he will receive a fair trial.

Amnesty International is concerned that Congolese authorities have restricted the rights to freedom of expression, peaceful association and assembly during the debate on electoral legislation in violation of articles 13, 21 and 22 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and articles 23, 26 and 37 of the DRC Constitution.

### Please write immediately in French or your own language to:

- Urging the Congolese authorities to ensure that Christopher Ngoyi Mutamba's right to a fair trial is respected in accordance with international standards;
- Calling on the Congolese authorities to uphold the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly and not to unlawfully restrict those rights.

### PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 28 APRIL 2015:

Minister of Justice and Human Rights

Alexis Tambwe Mwamba  
Ministry of Justice and Human Rights  
P.O Box 3137  
Kinshasa/Gombe, DRC  
Fax : +243 8805521  
E-mail : min-droitshumains@yahoo.fr

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

Attorney General

Flory Kabange Numbi  
P.O Box 7016  
Kinshasa1  
Kinshasa, DRC  
Email: pgr\_rdc@yahoo.fr

**Salutation: Dear Attorney General**

**And copies to:**

Prime Minister  
His Excellency Augustin Matata Ponyo  
Office of the Prime Minister  
5, avenue Roi Baudoin  
Kinshasa/Gombe, DRC  
Email: contact@primature.cd  
primaturedc@yahoo.fr  
cabinet@primature.cd

**Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:**

Name Address 1 Address 2 Address 3 Fax Fax number Email Email address Salutation Salutation

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the first update of UA 23/15. Further information:

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/AFR62/0001/2015/en/>

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



# URGENT ACTION

## HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER RISKS 20 YEAR JAIL TERM

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Christopher Ngoyi Mutamba is the president of the human rights NGO Congo Culture and Development Synergy (Synergie Congo culture et développement) and coordinator of the Civil Society of Congo (société civile du Congo). He is also a member of the Let's Save Congo (Sauvons le Congo) network which is a coalition of opposition parties and civil society organizations opposed to amendment of the constitution or any other laws in a bid to extend the term of President Kabila beyond December 2016.

From 19 to 21 January protests, some of which became violent, were held in Kinshasa by demonstrators opposing the amendment of the electoral code. They suspected the ruling majority of tying legislative and presidential elections to a general census which would extend President Kabila's term beyond December 2016. On 23 January, the DRC Senate passed the electoral code law without the provisions that linked the upcoming presidential and legislative elections to the general census.

Dozens were killed, several others wounded and hundreds detained by law enforcement authorities during the protests.

Name: Christopher Ngoyi Mutamba

Gender m/f: m

Further Information UA: 23/15 Index: AFR 62/1222/2015 Issue Date: 17 March 2015