

PUBLIC

AI Index: AFR 62/06/99

25 January 1999

Further information on UA 08/99 (62/03/99, 19 January 1999) and follow-up (AFR 62/05/99) - "disappearance"/fear of torture

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO  
Christophe Bintu  
Bienvenu Kasole  
about 25 Tutsi civilians

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Christophe Bintu and Bienvenu Kasole were released without charge from Camp Kokolo on 20 January 1999. They had been held in the camp together with the other detainees since their arrest on 12 January. The others remain in detention.

The two activists were beaten on arrest. Christophe Kasolo bled for two days from an injury to his arm, and was denied medical attention. Bienvenu Kasole lost a tooth. Both reported sustained verbal abuse, relating in particular to their role as human rights activists. Both have been threatened by the soldiers who detained them and fear rearrest at any time.

AI has also received claims that many of the other detainees have sustained beatings and other ill-treatment. The detainees continue to be denied access to medical or legal assistance.

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in French or in your own language:**

- welcoming the release of Christophe Bintu and Bienvenu Kasole, but calling for an immediate investigation into allegations of torture while they were held in custody;
- asking to be told the names of those arrested at the *Centre Béthanie*, currently held at Camp Kokolo, and the exact whereabouts of Christophe Bintu and Bienvenu Kasole;
- expressing concern at reports of extrajudicial executions of Tutsi in Camp Kokolo during 1998 and asking for a full independent inquiry into these allegations;
- seeking assurances that those arrested at the *Centre Béthanie* are not subjected to ill-treatment and that they are allowed access to legal and medical assistance at all times;
- seeking assurances that no-one is being held solely on account of their ethnic origins and that charges be promptly made or detainees released unconditionally;
- reminding the government of the DRC of its commitment to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in particular Article 19: "Everyone has the right to freedom of expression".

**APPEALS TO:**

President Laurent-Désiré KABILA  
Président de la République, Présidence de la République  
Kinshasa-Ngaliema, Democratic Republic of Congo

**Telegrams: Président, Kinshasa, DR Congo**

**Faxes: + 243 88 02120**

**Salutation: Monsieur le Président de la République / Dear President**

Minister for the Interior, M. Gaëtan KAKUDJI  
Ministre d'Etat, Ministre  
de l'Intérieur  
Ministère de l'Interieur

Kinshasa-Gombe, Democratic Republic of Congo  
République Démocratique du Congo

**Telexes:     Ministre Kakudji, Kinshasa, DR Congo**

**COPIES TO:**

Minister for Human Rights, M. Léonard She Okitundu

Ministre des Droits de l'Homme, Kinshasa-Gombe, DR Congo

**Telegrams:   Ministre Droits de l'Homme, Kinshasa, DR Congo**

**Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Dear Minister**

and to diplomatic representatives of the Democratic Republic of Congo accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 8 March 1999.