

PUBLIC

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Further Information on UA 319/06 (AFR 62/022/2006, 27 November 2006) and updates (AFR 62/003/2007, 24 January 2007 and AFR 62/008/2007, 24 April 2007) – Prisoner of conscience/fear of torture or ill-treatment/possible death sentence/unfair trial/health concern

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC) Marie-Thérèse Nlandu Mpolo-Nene (f), lawyer and political leader
Bienvenu Tungu Mukumbu (m), driver (spelling corrected)
Charles Félix Kianza Bata (m) journalist/press officer (spelling corrected)
José Lifumba Botumbele (“José Inonga”) (m) – church leader
André (“Gauthier”) Lusiladio Mavambu (m), bodyguard (spelling corrected)
Bona Kongbo Nzingaba (m) (bodyguard)
Claude Gayo Tenvo (m) (bodyguard)
Gbala Kukambisa (m) (Nlandu household employee)
Ruffin Edjanga Fataki (m), soldier
Basisa Iyondo (m), soldier

After more than five months in detention, prisoner of conscience Marie-Thérèse Nlandu and her nine co-defendants were acquitted of all charges by a Kinshasa military court on 30 April, and released. The family of Marie-Thérèse Nlandu has written to thank Amnesty International members for their support “during these darkest months”.

Marie-Thérèse Nlandu and her nine co-defendants were charged with organizing and participating in “an insurrectionary movement” (*un mouvement insurrectionnel*) as well as with possession of firearms or ammunition. Their trial, which violated international fair trial standards, began on 22 December 2006. Amnesty International believes that Marie-Thérèse Nlandu was targeted for her work as a lawyer and for her peaceful political activities.

Many thanks to all who sent appeals. No further action is required. Amnesty International continues to campaign for an end to trial of civilians by military court in the DRC and for investigation of allegations of torture or ill-treatment of detainees, in this and other cases.