

PUBLIC

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22 April 2003

Further Information on UA 107/03 (AFR 62/012/2003, 19 April 2003) Prisoners of conscience / unfair trial

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
OF CONGO

Prince Kumwamba Nsapu (m), aged 32, human rights defender
Grégoire Mulamba Tshisakamba (m), aged 36, human rights defender
Victor Tshisola (m)
Mpiana Ngoie (m)
Mbuye Ngalula (m)
Mbuya Mbombu (m), student
Maboy Lusambaye (m)
Yvette Kenge Mutombo (f), nurse
Kabongo Kabemba (m)
Kilima Bisaku (m)

The ten people named above have all been released by the security forces.

Prince Kumwamba Nsapu of the *Association africaine de défense des droits de l'homme* (ASADHO), African Association for the Defense of Human Rights, and Grégoire Mulamba Tshisakamba of the *Centre des droits de l'homme et du droit humanitaire* (CDH), Centre for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, were given a conditional release (*liberté provisoire*) on the afternoon of 19 April. At a hearing by the *Cour d'ordre militaire* (COM), Military Order Court on 22 April, their release was made unconditional and they were formally acquitted of "inciting rebellion". Although their hands were tightly and painfully bound on their arrest, the two men were not ill-treated during their subsequent three-day detention at Kasapa prison in Lubumbashi.

The other eight detainees were released without charge on 17 April. They had been arrested on 16 April for possessing a joint press statement issued by ASADHO, CDH and the *Commission de vulgarisation des droits de l'homme et du développement* (CVDHO), Commission for the Popular Dissemination of Human Rights and for Development, which was critical of the COM. In its judgement of 22 April, the COM dismissed the charge that this statement amounted to an incitement to rebellion.

Prince Kumwamba Nsapu and Grégoire Mulamba Tshisakamba have expressed their thanks to all those who took action on their behalf and on behalf of the other detainees.

No further action is required. Thank you to everyone who sent appeals.