

PUBLIC

AI Index: AFR 62/029/2001

21 September 2001

Further information on UA 118/01 (AFR 62/007/2001, 16 May 2001) and follow-ups (AFR 62/008/2001, 17 May 2001, AFR 62/024/2001, 17 July 2001 and AFR 62/026/01, 31 August 2001) - Arbitrary arrest / torture

**DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC Golden Misabiko Baholelwa (m), - human rights
OF CONGO (DRC) defender and prisoner of conscience**

Human rights defender Golden Misabiko was released without charge from Kinshasa's main prison on 13 September, after spending over seven months as a prisoner of conscience. Although relieved to be free, he requires medical treatment after being tortured in the initial stages of his imprisonment.

One other detainee, a member of the military called Clarice Bébi Zaina, was released at the same time as Golden Misabiko. They had been both held in the cell-block known as *pavillon 1*, where over 50 people continue to be detained for their alleged role in the assassination of Laurent-Désiré Kabila in January 2001, although none of them have been formally charged.

Several of the remaining detainees in *pavillon 1*, including Anne-Marie Kamwanya Masumbuko, appear to be held simply because they are related to suspected conspirators and, as such, they may be prisoners of conscience. The detainees are only allowed one short visit from a family member a week.

Golden Misabiko has sent his thanks to all those who sent appeals on his behalf. He said that when he was informed that Amnesty International was campaigning for his release he said to himself: 'I'm going to get out' (je vais sortir).

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible in French or English or your own language:

- welcoming the release of Golden Misabiko, but expressing regret that he was groundlessly detained for seven months on account of his human rights activism;
- expressing concern that he was tortured in the initial stages of his detention, resulting in ongoing health problems, and urging that his torturers be brought to justice and that Golden Misabiko receive compensation;
- expressing concern that a number of detainees, including Anne-Marie Kamwanya Masumbuko, may be prisoners of conscience, detained solely because they are related to criminal suspects, and urging their release if they are not to be charged with a recognisably criminal offence.

APPEALS TO:

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs
Léonard She Okitundu
Ministre d'Etat chargé des Affaires Etrangères
Ministère des Affaires étrangères
BP 7100
Kinshasa-Gombe
Democratic Republic of Congo

Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre d'Etat / Dear Minister of State

Minister of Human Rights
Professeur Ntumba Luaba

Ministre des Droits humains
Ministère des Droits humains
33/C Boulevard du 30 juin
Kinshasa-Gombe
Democratic Republic of Congo

Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Dear Minister

Director of the Kinshasa Penitentiary and Reeducation Centre
Kitunga Killy Dido
Directeur du CPRK
Centre pénitentiaire et de rééducation de Kinshasa
Makala district, Kinshasa
Democratic Republic of Congo

Salutation: Monsieur le Directeur / Dear Director

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 2 November 2001.