

PUBLIC

AI Index: AFR 62/008/2003

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Further Information on UA 120/02 (AFR 62/005/2002, 22 April 2002) and follow-ups (AFR 62/007/2002, 29 April 2002; AFR 62/014/2002, 30 August 2002 and AFR 62/019/2002, 30 September 2002). - Arbitrary arrest / prisoner of conscience / ill-health

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC  
OF CONGO (DRC)

N'sii Luanda Shandwe (m), human rights defender

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Human rights defender N'sii Luanda Shandwe was released on 26 January, having spent nine months as a prisoner of conscience at Kinshasa's main prison, the *Centre pénitentiaire et de rééducation de Kinshasa* (CRPK), Kinshasa Penitentiary and Reeducation Centre. He had been detained as a result of his human rights activism, but was never formally charged with a criminal offence. He was in good health on his release, having undergone an operation for appendicitis last September.

His release appears to have been a measure of presidential grace, announced on the second anniversary of President Joseph Kabila's accession to power. In a letter written after his release, N'sii Luanda Shandwe thanked Amnesty International members throughout the world for the support they had given him during his detention. "Perhaps they can't quite imagine how much courage, moral comfort, protection and happiness their actions gave me," he wrote. "I will remain forever grateful...".

**Many thanks to all who sent appeals. No further action is required from the network.**