

PUBLIC

AI Index: AFR 62/18/00

16 August 2000

Further information on UA 179/00 (AFR 62/13/00, 26 June 2000) and follow-up (AFR 62/16/00, 7 July 2000) - Arbitrary arrest / fear of torture

Members of the National Prison Fellowship in Congo (FNPC):

Jonas Mukamba Kadiata, FNPC member

Pastor Tshisumpa, FNPC president

Released: Dieudonné Kalobo, driver

Pastor Nkashama, FNPC member

Christophe Tshimona, FNPC member

Sylvain Tshitenge (note amended name), FNPC member

Bintu Mukamba, wife of Jonas Mukamba Kadiata

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC)

Jonas Mukamba Kadiata and Pastor Tshisumpa, detained by the security services since late June 2000, have now reportedly been charged with endangering state security (*atteinte à la sûreté de l'Etat*). Over the weekend of 12-13 August they were transferred from a security service detention centre to the main prison *Centre pénitentiaire et de rééducation de Kinshasa* (CPRK), Kinshasa Penitentiary and Re-education Centre in the DRC capital.

While there has been some improvement in their conditions of detention since their transfer to the CPRK, Amnesty International remains concerned for the well-being of Pastor Tshisumpa, who has reportedly already been hospitalised once since his arrest and who remains in ill-health.

The basis for the charges of endangering state security are not known to Amnesty International, though it is understood that nine other men have also been charged with the same offence in this case and are also being held at the CPRK.

The majority of those initially arrested with Jonas Mukamba Kadiata and Pastor Tshisumpa, most of them members of the non-governmental organisation the *Fraternité Nationale de prison au Congo* (FNPC), National Prison Fellowship in Congo, are now understood to have been released. Sylvain Tshitenge and Christophe Tshimona were reportedly released without charge on 6 August 2000 and Dieudonné Kalobo and Pastor Nkashama were reportedly released on 8 August, also without charge.

Pastor Tshisumpa is the president of the FNPC and also the DRC branch president of the International Society for Human Rights (ISHR) an international non-governmental organisation. Jonas Mukamba Kadiata, a former director of a state-owned diamond mining company and FNPC member, was previously arrested in April 1997 by the armed group that brought President Laurent-Désiré Kabila to power. He was released in June 1997.

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

- welcoming the recent release without charge of several FNPC members;
- expressing your concern at the reported ill-health of Pastor Tshisumpa and urging that he is immediately granted any medical attention he may require;
- urging that lawyers and relatives are granted access to Jonas Mukamba Kadiata and Pastor Tshisumpa;

- seeking further information on the charges against Jonas Mukamba Kadiata and Pastor Tshisumpa and assurances that any legal proceedings against them will conform to international standards of fairness, including a right to appeal to a higher court if they are convicted;

- urging the authorities to release the detainees without delay if they have been detained solely on account of their non-violent activities as FNPC members.

APPEALS TO:

President

Président Laurent-Désiré KABILA

Président de la République, Présidence de la République

Kinshasa-Ngaliema, Democratic Republic of Congo

Telegrams: President, Kinshasa, DR Congo

e-mails: UPP@ic.cd

Fax: +243 880 2120 (this number may be very difficult to get through to)

Salutation: Monsieur le Président de la République / Dear Président

Minister of Justice

Monsieur Mwenze KONGOLO

Ministre de la justice

Ministère de la justice

BP 3137 Kinshasa-Gombe, Democratic Republic of Congo

COPIES TO:

Minister of Human Rights

Monsieur Léonard SHE OKITUNDU

Ministre des Droits humains

Ministère des Droits humains

Kinshasa-Gombe, Democratic Republic of Congo

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 27 September 2000.