

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AFR 62/28/97

15 September 1997

Further information on EXTRA 112/97 (AFR 62/24/97, 13 August 1997) and follow-up (AFR 62/25/97, 15 August) - Torture / Fear of torture

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC) Bertin Lukanda, human rights activist  
Diomba Ramazani, NGO worker  
Dieudonné Asumani, NGO worker

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Amnesty International has received confirmation of the release of Bertin Lukanda and Dieudonné Asumani (corrected name), believed to have taken place on 8 September 1997.

Sources in the DRC report that Bertin Lukanda was dangerously ill on release from detention, after having been severely beaten and starved. His release was allegedly ordered by a high-ranking military official in Kinshasa. He is now recovering from his ordeal in detention.

Dieudonné Asumani was also reportedly beaten in detention, but he is reported to be recovering from the ill-treatment, as is Diomba Ramazani.

No inquiries into the allegations of torture are known to have taken place.

Many thanks to all who have participated in this action, which is thought to have contributed to the release of the three men.

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send a final round of letters in French/English or in your own language:**

- welcoming the release of the three men named above, but expressing grave concern at reports that they were tortured and ill-treated. Urge that an inquiry establish the facts of their arrest and detention and those responsible for human rights violations such as torture be identified and brought to justice.

**APPEALS TO:**

Head of State

Son Excellence

Laurent-Désiré KABILA

Président de la République

Présidence de la République

Kinshasa-Ngaliema

Democratic Republic of Congo

**Salutation: Monsieur le Président de la République/Dear President**

Commandant Anselme Masasu NINDAGA

Chef d'Etat-Major de l'AFDL

Ministère de la Défense

BP 4734

Kinshasa-Gombe

Democratic Republic of Congo

**Salutation: Monsieur le commandant / Dear Commander**

**COPIES TO:** diplomatic representatives of DRC accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 16 October 1997.