

URGENT ACTION

CAMEROON JOURNALIST RELEASED FROM CUSTODY

Human rights defender and journalist Gerard Kuissu was released from custody on the night of 17 March, after Amnesty International issued an urgent action and met with the Colonel in charge of his detention. The case was also covered by local and international media.

Gerard Kuissu was released in the night of 17 March. He was arrested on 14 March by the officers from the Gendarmerie Nationale de Bonanjo where he was held in detention for 30 hours before his transfer to a detention facility at the Secrétariat d'Etat à la Défense (SED) run by the Ministry of Defence in Yaoundé, Cameroon on 16 March.

Amnesty International delegates visited Gerard Kuissu on the morning of 17 March at the SED in Yaoundé and also met with the Colonel in charge of the unit where Gerard Kuissu was held. The Colonel had originally denied that Gerard Kuissu was detained there. Before Amnesty International delegates visited Gerard Kuissu, there were fears for his safety and he was not given prompt and regular access to his lawyer and family. However, during their meeting with the Colonel it was agreed with him that Gerard Kuissu would be given access to a lawyer of his choice. Shortly after the meeting, Gerard Kuissu was given access to his lawyer and was interviewed in his lawyer's presence before being released later in the night.

Gerard Kuissu says: "I thank all of you who were actively engaged for my liberation. Sincerely thank you. I specifically thank my lawyers, my friends and activists from Amnesty International.... From the bottom of my heart thank you. We should not stop here. The fight continues".

Many thanks to those who sent appeals. No further action is required from the UA network.

This is a first update of UA 62/15. Further information: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/AFR17/1224/2015/en/>

Name: Gerard Kuissu

Gender m/f: m

Further information on UA: 62/15 Index: AFR 17/1237/2015 Issue date: 18 March 2015

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