

URGENT ACTION

PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE MOVED TO MILITARY PRISON

Former member of parliament Vano Kiboko is currently serving a three year prison sentence for publicly opposing a third term for the president of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Joseph Kabila. He was transferred to a military detention centre in Kinshasa on 27 January, following accusations that he was trying to create an “insurrectional movement” within the civilian prison where he was detained.

Vano Kiboko, a former member of parliament was arrested on 29 December 2014 after speaking out against a third term for DRC’s president Joseph Kabila. He was sentenced to three years in prison on 14 September 2015 for incitement to racial and tribal hatred and spreading false rumours.

Vano Kiboko, was serving his sentence at Makala central prison in Kinshasa, DRC’s capital, when he was transferred to Ndolo military prison, also in Kinshasa, on 27 January. A government spokesperson accused him of creating an “insurrectional movement” within Makala central prison without providing credible details in support of these accusations. According to his lawyers, the procedure to transfer a prisoner to a different place of detention was not followed.

His family has also expressed concerns about his health and the need for appropriate care.

Amnesty International considers him a prisoner of conscience and continues to call for his immediate and unconditional release.

Please write immediately in French, English or your own language:

- Urging the authorities to immediately and unconditionally release Vano Kiboko, as he is being held solely for the peaceful exercise of his human rights;
- In any event, calling on them to ensure Vano Kiboko has access to medical care as necessary, and;
- Urging them to ensure Vano Kiboko has effective access to his family members and his lawyer without delay.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 22 MARCH 2016 TO:

Minister of Justice and Human Rights

Alexis Tambwe Mwamba
Ministry of Justice and Human Rights
Kinshasa/ Gombe
Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)
Email: minjustdh@gmail.com
Fax: +243 8805521address 4
Salutation: Dear Minister

Prime Minister

Augustin Matata Ponyo
Office of the Prime Minister
5 avenue Roi Baudoin
Kinshasa/ Gombe
Democratic Republic of Congo
Email: cabinet@primature.cd
Salutation: His Excellency

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:

Name Address 1 Address 2 Address 3 Fax Fax number Email Email address Salutation Salutation

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

DRC's President Joseph Kabila has been in office since 2001 and was declared winner of the 2006 and 2011 elections. The Congolese constitution limits a president to two consecutive terms. As the November 2016 elections draw closer, calls for President Kabila to step down have intensified, as has the government crackdown on those voicing these views.

Vano Kiboko, a former parliamentarian held a press conference on 27 December 2014. In response to a journalist's question, Vano Kiboko suggested that the majority coalition should start preparing President Kabila's successor and that Moise Katumbi, the governor of ex-Katanga Province, would be the most suitable candidate.

When Vano Kiboko tried to leave for the USA on 28 December 2014, his passport was confiscated at the airport in Kinshasa. He was told to retrieve his passport from the Immigration Office (DGM) in Kinshasa which he did on 29 December 2014. Vano Kiboko was approached by four people in plain clothes as he left the DGM offices with his daughter and lawyer. Without any explanation or arrest warrant, they pulled him into a white van and drove off.

Name: Vano Kibobo

Gender: M

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