

URGENT ACTION

FOUR ACTIVISTS DETAINED FOR SYMBOLIC ACTION

Four human right activists were arrested in Goma on 7 April, when they were encouraging bystanders to take part in a symbolic action to demand the release of their colleagues held in secret detention in Kinshasa.

Tresor Akili, Vincent Kasereka, Gentil Mulume and Sylvain Mumbere, members of Lutte pour le Changement (Struggle for Change or LUCHA), an organization engaging youth activists, were arrested on 7 April while preparing for their 'filimbi' or 'whistle' action. Since 4 April, LUCHA has organized a daily symbolic action asking people to blow whistles from 5.00pm to 5.05 pm to demand the release of their colleagues held in secret detention in Kinshasa since 15 March 2015.

The four were arrested at '*Deux Lampes*' roundabout, in Goma, where they were explaining their action to bystanders and distributing whistles to those interested. On 13 April, the public prosecutor signed a provisional arrest warrant and charged the activists with undermining national security, inciting rebellion, distribution of pamphlets and participation in illegal protests. The four were transferred to Munzenze prison in Goma the same day.

Amnesty International considers that the activists are being detained on these charges solely for peacefully exercising their rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association.

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

- Urging the authorities to drop the charges against the four and immediately release them;
- Urging the authorities, pending their immediate release, to ensure they are humanely treated in conditions of detention that meet international standards;
- Urging the authorities to uphold the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 28 MAY 2015 TO:

Minister of Justice and Human Rights

Alexis Tambwe Mwamba
Ministry of Justice and Human Rights,
P.O Box 3137
Kinshasa/Gombe
DRC
Email: info@minjustice.cd
Fax: +243 8805521
Salutation: Dear Minister

Attorney General

Flory Kabange Numbi
P.O. Box 7016 Kinshasa 1
Kinshasa
DRC
Email: pgr_rdc@yahoo.fr
Salutation: Dear Attorney General

And copies to:

Minister of Interior

M. Evariste Boshab
Ministry of Interior
Avenue Roi Baudoin
Kinshasa/Gombe
DRC
Email: mininterieur@yahoo.fr

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country.

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.

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The *Filimbi* or whistle action calls for the release of at least 5 human rights activists who remain in secret detention in Kinshasa after security officials stormed a press conference held on 15 March at Eloko Makasi youth centre in Masina, Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Approximately 30 people were arrested at the time, including activists from the Senegalese movement Y'en a Marre, the Burkinabé group Balai Citoyen, as well as an American diplomat and journalists present at the press conference. The American diplomat and foreign journalists were released the same day, and the Senegalese and Burkinabé activists were later deported. An unknown number of Congolese activists, including Fred Bauma, who was representing LUCHA during the press conference, remain in secret detention. Since their arrest on 15 March, they have not had access to a lawyer or allowed visits from their family members. Their precise location of detention remains unknown.

Name: Tresor Akili, Vincent Kasereka, Gentil Mulume and Sylvain Mumbere

Gender m/f: m

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