

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AFR 62/01/98

6 January 1998

Further information on UA 372/97 (AFR 62/37/97, 27 November 1997) -
Fear of ill-treatment/ Arbitrary arrest/ Medical concern

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGORoger Sala Nzo Badila,
human rights activist

The human rights activist Roger Sala Nzo Badila continues to be detained without charge at the security service, the *Agence Nationale de Renseignements*. He was arrested on 23 November 1997 by the security forces. His arbitrary detention exceeds the legal limit of detention without charge, which is 48 hours, and can only be extended up to 5 days under the Congolese Code of Penal Procedure.

Roger Sala Nzo Badila was interrogated several times by the *Police Judiciaire* (Criminal Investigation Police) of the *Conseil national de sécurité (CNR)*, National Security Council. During these interrogations, he was asked questions about an article he wrote in the journal *Le Messager* and about correspondence by fax and letter he had had with members of Amnesty International.

Roger Sala Nzo Badila has diabetes, and Amnesty International has received reports that his health is deteriorating in custody due to a lack of appropriate medical care and the special diet he requires.

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

- urging that Roger Sala Nzo Badila be allowed access to medical care and that he gets the diet he needs for diabetes;
- urging that Roger Sala Nzo Badila be transferred to a hospital if an independent medical doctor recommends it;
- explaining that Amnesty International considers Roger Sala Nzo Badila a prisoner of conscience solely held because of his human rights activities;
- calling for his immediate and unconditional release;
- calling for immediate steps to end the current trend of arbitrary arrests in the DRC.

APPEALS TO:

President

Son Excellence Laurent-Désiré KABILA

Président de la République

Présidence de la République

Kinshasa-Ngaliema

Democratic Republic of Congo

Telegrams: President Kabila, Kinshasa DR Congo

Fax: + 243 88 02120

Salutation: Monsieur le Président de la République

Minister of Justice

M. Mwenze KONGOLO

Ministre de la Justice

Ministère de la Justice

BP 3137, Kinshasa-Gombe

Democratic Republic of Congo

Telegrams: Ministre Justice, Kinshasa, DR Congo

Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre

Minister of State for Internal Affairs

Gatean KAKUDJI

Ministre de l'Etat à l'Intérieur

Hôtel du Conseil exécutif

Kinshasa-Gombe

Democratic Republic of Congo

Telegrams: Ministre Interieur, Kinshasa, DR Congo

Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre

COPIES TO:

***Le Phare* (independent newspaper)**, Faxes: +1 212 3769270 (this is a number in the United States but the fax will be transmitted to *Le Phare*)

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 17 February 1997.