

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 42/92 Incommunicado detention/ill-treatment concern

4 February 1992

Zaire About 20 soldiers arrested at Zaire radio station following alleged coup attempt.

At least 20 soldiers have been held at Camp Tshatshi and various other detention centres in the capital, Kinshasa, following an alleged coup attempt on 22 January 1992. They were among a group of rebel soldiers who briefly occupied the complex of the national radio station La Voix du Zaïre (the Voice of Zaïre). They demanded the resignation of President Mobutu Sese Seko and the Prime Minister Nguza Karl-i-Bond and appealed for foreign military intervention and the resumption of Zaïre's National Conference, following its suspension on 19 January 1992. The soldiers have since been held incommunicado. Detainees held incommunicado in the past in Zaïre have been subjected to torture and other forms of cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment.

Troops loyal to the government recaptured the radio station two hours later. The authorities said that two of the rebel soldiers were killed. The government has claimed that the opposition Union pour la démocratie et le progrès social, (UPDS) Union for Democracy and Social Progress, was involved, but the opposition has denied any links with the rebel soldiers.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The occupation of the radio station followed the suspension of Zaïre's National Conference by the Prime Minister Nguza. The National Conference is composed of several hundred political parties and other groups and was started in August 1991 to review and reform Zaïre's political system. Opponents of the government have insisted that the National Conference continue and have called for a campaign of civil disobedience to oblige the government to allow its continuation. It had previously been stopped in September 1991 following army-led looting and violence in most Zairian towns, but resumed in December 1991.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/ express and airmail letters in FRENCH, if possible:**

- expressing concern about reports of incommunicado detention of soldiers arrested in connection with the occupation of the radio station on 22 January 1992;
- asking the authorities to make public the identities and places of detention of those arrested;
- enquiring whether they have been charged with specific offences and when they will be brought to trial;
- seeking assurances that the detainees are not being ill-treated and that they will be allowed prompt access to legal advice and their relatives.

**APPEALS TO:**

1) President:  
Son Excellence le Maréchal  
MOBUTU Sese Seko

Président de la République  
Présidence de la République  
Kinshasa-Ngaliema  
République du Zaïre  
**Telegrams: President Mobutu, Kinshasa, Zaïre**  
**Telexes: 21368**  
**Salutation: Monsieur le Président / Dear President**

2) Prime Minister:  
Monsieur Nguza Karl-i-Bond  
Premier Ministre  
Hotel du Conseil exécutif  
Kinshasa-Gombe  
République du Zaïre  
**Telexes: 21368**  
**Salutation: Monsieur le Premier Ministre/ Dear Prime Minister**

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3) Minister of Justice and Attorney General:  
Monsieur Mobuka  
Ministre de la Justice et  
Garde des Sceaux  
Ministère de la Justice  
BP 3137  
Kinshasa-Gombe  
République du Zaïre  
**Telexes: 2136**  
**Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Dear Minister**

4) Minister of Defence:  
Monsieur Ngbanda Nzambo ko Atumba  
Ministre de la Défense nationale,  
la Sécurité du territoire et des  
Anciens combattants  
Ministère de la Défense  
BP 3137  
Kinshasa-Gombe  
République du Zaïre  
**Telexes: 2136 DDNZR**  
**Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Dear Minister**

**COPIES TO:**

Minister of the Interior:  
Monsieur Mandungu Bula Nyati  
Ministre de l'Interieur et  
Développement communautaire,  
Hotel du Conseil exécutif  
Kinshasa-Gombe  
République du Zaïre

Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces:  
Monsieur le Général  
MAHELE Liyeko Bokungu  
Chef d'Etat-Major Général des  
Forces armées Zaïroises (FAZ)  
Ministère de la Défense nationale  
Kinshasa-Ngaliema  
République du Zaïre

Presidential adviser:

Maitre NIMY Mayidika Ngimbi  
Conseiller spécial du Chef d'Etat  
en matière de sécurité  
Présidence de la République  
Kinshasa-Ngaliema  
République du Zaïre

newspapers:

Elima BP 10017 Kinshasa-Limete, Zaïre  
La Semaine 138 Avenue Wagenia, BP 15116, Kinshasa 1, Zaïre  
Le Potential 2 Avenue Msi-Manimba, BP 11338, Kinshasa, Zaïre

- and to diplomatic representatives of Zaïre in your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat or your section office if sending appeals after 18 March 1992.