

JUSTICE FOR PASCAL KABUNGULU

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Pascal Kabungulu Kibembi, a prominent human rights activist, was killed on 31 July 2005 by a group of armed men who broke into his house in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The attackers dragged him out of his bedroom and shot him dead in front of his family.

The trial of the men accused of killing him has been deadlocked for more than five years. These men, who include soldiers and more senior military and political figures, are still free.

The recent killing of leading human rights defender Floribert Chebeya Bahizire in Kinshasa on 2 June 2010 shows the risks faced by human rights defenders in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. They face daily threats, harassment and attacks, which the authorities fail to investigate. If the killers of Pascal Kabungulu were brought to justice, not only would Pascal's family have some redress, but a signal would be sent that violations against human rights defenders will no longer go unpunished.

Image: Pascal Kabungulu speaking at a meeting of human rights defenders, Democratic Republic of the Congo, October 2003.
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Your Excellency,

On 31 July 2005 human rights defender Pascal Kabungulu was killed by armed men. During your visit to South Kivu in 2006, you personally promised that justice would be done. Five years on, I appeal to you to:

- Ensure that the trial of Pascal Kabungulu's alleged killers resumes.
- End impunity for violations committed against human rights defenders.
- Ensure that human rights defenders are protected, so that killings of human rights defenders such as Pascal Kabungulu and Floribert Chebeya never happen again.
- Encourage Parliament to adopt legislation to protect human rights defenders in line with the 1998 UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.

Pascal Kabungulu sought to build a society based on human rights and justice. I urge you to do all in your power to fulfil this goal.

Yours sincerely,

Name: _____

Country: _____

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S.E M. Joseph Kabila
Président de la République
Cabinet du Président de la République
Palais de la Nation
Kinshasa/Gombe
République démocratique du Congo

Image: Pascal Kabungulu © Héritiers de la Justice
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