

PUBLIC

AI Index: AFR 62/008/2001

17 May 2001

Further information on UA 118/01 (AFR 62/007/2001, 16 May 2001) - Arbitrary arrest / Fear of ill-treatment

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC Golden Misabiko Baholelwa (m), President of the OF CONGO (DRC) Lubumbashi branch of human rights group ASADHO

Released: Hubert Tshiswaka (m)
Jeanne Bilonda (f)

Human rights activists Hubert Tshiswaka and Jeanne Bilonda were released without charge at around 6pm on 16 May after being held for 48 hours in a security service detention centre in south-eastern DRC.

They were not ill-treated and their morale is said to be high. They have already resumed their work at the Lubumbashi branch office of the *Association africaine de défense des droits de l'homme* (ASADHO), African Association for the Defence of Human Rights, where they had been arrested on 14 May. They have expressed their thanks to all those who campaigned on their behalf and are convinced that national and international pressure led directly to their release.

Golden Misabiko Baholelwa, president of the Lubumbashi branch of ASADHO is reportedly still detained incommunicado at Kinshasa's central prison, following his arrest in Lubumbashi on 5 February. His family and lawyers have been refused access to him. He may be in need of medical treatment after reportedly being ill-treated during his initial period of detention.

On learning of the release of Hubert Tshiswaka and Jeanne Bilonda, an ASADHO colleague expressed the hope that the news would reach Golden Misabiko and "light a little flame of hope in a corner of his heart".

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

- welcoming the release of Hubert Tshiswaka and Jeanne Bilonda, but expressing concern at the continuing incommunicado detention of Golden Misabiko Baholelwa;
- calling for him to be immediately granted access to his family, lawyers and any medical treatment he may require;
- calling for his immediate and unconditional release, unless he is to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence and promptly given the opportunity to answer those charges before a court of law;
- urging that reports of his ill-treatment be investigated and that anyone found to be responsible for ill-treating him be brought to justice;
- urging that President Joseph Kabila's public commitment to closing all unofficial detention centres be promptly and fully implemented, and that the government bring an immediate end to the targeting of human rights activists solely because of their legitimate human rights work.

APPEALS TO:

1. President

Président Joseph Kabila
Président de la République, Présidence de la République
Kinshasa-Ngaliema, Democratic Republic of Congo

Telegrams: President, Kinshasa, DR Congo

e-mails: UPP@ic.cd

Fax: + 243 88 02120 (It may be difficult getting through to this number - please be patient and keep trying)

Salutation: Monsieur le Président de la République / Dear Président

2. Minister of Justice

M. Antoine Deogratias Ngele Masudi
Ministre de la Justice et des
Affaires parlementaires
Ministère de la Justice
BP 3137

Kinshasa-Gombe

République Démocratique du Congo

Telegrams:Ministre Justice, Kinshasa, DR Congo

Salutation:Monsieur le Ministre / Dear Minister

3. Head of the ANR

Didier Kazadi Nyembwe
Directeur de L'Agence Nationale de
Renseignements (ANR)
Ministère de l'Intérieur
Hôtel du Conseil Exécutif
Kinshasa-Gombe

République Démocratique du Congo

Telegrams:Directeur ANR, Kinshasa, DR Congo

Salutation:Monsieur le Directeur / Dear Director

COPIES TO:

Minister for Human Rights

Professeur Ntumba Luaba
Ministre des Droits humains
Ministère des Droits humains
33/C Boulevard du 30 juin
Kinshasa-Gombe

République Démocratique du Congo

e-mails:mininfordc@ic.cd

Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Dear Minister

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 28 June 2001.