

PUBLIC

AI Index: AFR 62/014/2001

8 June 2001

Further information on UA 143/01 (AFR 62/013/2001, 8 June 2000) - Arbitrary arrest / Fear of torture

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGON'sii Luanda Shandwe, human rights activist

Human rights activist N'sii Luanda Shandwe has now been held without charge for over 72 hours. Although it is now known where he is held, and it appears that he has not been ill-treated or subjected to further interrogation, he is still at risk of ill-treatment or torture while he remains incommunicado.

Other human rights activists in Kinshasa managed to locate him at a detention centre run by the *Agence nationale de renseignements* (ANR), National Intelligence Agency, on the Avenue des Trois Z in the centre of the city, opposite the Ministry of the Interior. It is one of many unofficial detention centres that the new president, Joseph Kabila, had publicly committed to closing down in March 2001.

N'sii Luanda is said to be in good spirits, and it has reportedly been possible to get some food delivered to him.

The security services had called him in for questioning on 2 and 4 June. During the first interrogation his mobile phone was confiscated, and he was arrested when he went to get it back, on 5 June (not 4 June as given previously). The authorities are reported to have accused him of being in telephone contact with enemies of the state. In fact, the telephone is one of his key means of carrying out his work with the human rights group *Comité des observateurs des droits de l'homme* (CODHO), Committee of Human Rights Observers, of which he is the president.

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

- expressing concern at the apparently arbitrary arrest and continuing incommunicado detention of N'sii Luanda;
- urging the authorities to allow his lawyers, family and doctors to see him immediately, and to allow him any medical treatment he may require without delay;
- asking what charges, if any, he faces;
- urging them to release him immediately and unconditionally if he is not to be charged with a recognisably criminal offence and promptly given the opportunity to answer any charge before a court of law;
- urging the authorities to implement President Joseph Kabila's public commitment to close all unofficial detention centres, promptly and finally, and to stop targeting human rights activists solely because of their legitimate human rights work.

APPEALS TO:

(Please note that all the fax numbers given may be difficult to get through to - please be patient and keep trying)

1. President

Président Joseph Kabila

Président de la République, Présidence de la République

Kinshasa-Ngaliema, Democratic Republic of Congo

e-mails: UPP@ic.cd

Fax: + 243 88 02120

Salutation: Monsieur le Président de la République / Dear President

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

Fax:+ 243 12 20 843

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

République Démocratique du Congo

Fax:+ 243 12 20 843 (c/o Ministry of Justice)

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

Fax:+ 243 12 20 664

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 20 July 2001.