

PUBLIC

AI Index: AFR 62/24/99

9 September 1999

Further information on EXTRA 119/99 (AFR 62/20/99, 27 August 1999) and follow-up (AFR 62/21/99) - Fear for safety / Arbitrary arrest

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC)

Mushizi Nfundiko Kizito, journalist  
Omba Kamengele, journalist  
Raphael Wakenge, human rights activist

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The three men named above were released from detention on 8 September 1999. All three have been given bail conditions that prohibit them from leaving the town of Bukavu or undertaking any activities that may jeopardise public order. They are also required to report to the public prosecutor's office weekly.

Mushizi Nfundiko Kizito and Omba Kamengele were arrested on 25 August 1999 by soldiers of the armed opposition group *Rassemblement congolais pour la démocratie* (RCD), Congolese Rally for Democracy, in Bukavu, South Kivu province, who currently control most of North and South Kivu provinces, in eastern DRC. They were apparently arrested because they were suspected of using their radio receiver to listen to sensitive military transmissions.

Raphael Wakenge, a leading member of the human rights organization *Héritiers de la Justice*, was arrested on 27 August also in Bukavu. His arrest was believed to be linked to that of the two journalists.

Amnesty International was concerned that their arrests were politically motivated to deny them the right to freedom of expression, and considered all three to be possible prisoners of conscience.

The three men have expressed gratitude and appreciation to all those who sent appeals on their behalf.

**No further action is requested, but those who wish to do so may send one final round of faxes/express/airmail letters in French, English or your own language:**

- welcoming the release of Mushizi Nfundiko Kizito, Omba Kamengele and Raphael Wakenge;
- calling for all conditions on their release to be dropped, allowing them to continue their work.

**APPEALS TO (please note that fax tones are difficult to obtain):**

Emile Ilunga  
Président  
Rassemblement congolais pour la démocratie (RCD)  
Goma  
République démocratique du Congo  
**Faxes: + 871 761 850 629**  
**Salutation: Monsieur le Président / Dear President**

Maître Jean-Marie Emungu  
Directeur du Département de la justice et des droits de l'homme  
Rassemblement congolais pour la démocratie (RCD)  
Goma  
République démocratique du Congo

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**Faxes:+ 871 761 850 629**

**Salutation:Monsieur / Dear sir**

**COPIES TO:** the embassy of Rwanda in your country if there is one and to diplomatic representatives of the DRC accredited to your country.