

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AFR 62/27/96

UA 283/96

Ill-treatment / Medical concern

4 December 1996

**ZAIRE**Willy Mishiki, former parliamentarian  
Joseph Olenga Nkoy, parliamentarian

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**Dozens of others held incommunicado throughout Kinshasa**

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Amnesty International is concerned for the health and safety of Willy Mishiki and Joseph Olenga Nkoy, currently detained incommunicado in the Zaïrian capital, Kinshasa, after receiving detailed information on their conditions of detention. It appears that both detainees were beaten at the time of the arrest and have recently been threatened with further beatings. Both detainees need medical treatment for wounds sustained as a result of the beatings. In addition Willy Mishiki is a diabetic and needs insulin. They are being held in isolation cells with no bedding and food is frequently denied.

Willy Mishiki, a former deputy minister in Zaire, was arrested on 11 November 1996 by members of the *Service d'actions et renseignements militaires* (SARM), Military Intelligence Service, apparently for his involvement in student demonstrations which took place in Kinshasa in early November. Joseph Olenga Nkoy, opposition parliamentarian, was arrested after a press conference on 19 November 1996 in which he criticized the role of the government in dealing with the conflict in the east of Zaire. Both of them have been charged with an "attack on state security". They are being held under a 1961 emergency law permitting incommunicado detention under the auspices of the Ministry of Interior in *Service national d'intelligence et protection* (SNIP), National Service for Intelligence and Protection, cells in Kinshasa.

Amnesty International delegates in Kinshasa last week demanded permission to visit these detainees and others in cells throughout the capital, but were denied the necessary authorization from the Ministry of the Interior. Family members bringing food, medical personnel and lawyers have also been refused access.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Fighting in eastern Zaire, and the subsequent takeover of Zaïrian territory by rebels has served to heighten political tensions in Kinshasa. In late October dozens of arrests of civilians and military accused of being accomplices with the rebels took place. Many of those arrested are believed to be still detained incommunicado throughout the capital.

Well-known members of the opposition, and others prepared to speak out against the government's policy regarding the conflict have come under pressure to remain silent, after threats of aggression or as in this case, actual arrest.

A number of human rights activists who have questioned these arrests and others have also been threatened.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in french or your own language:

- demanding that Willy Mishiki and Joseph Olenga Nkoy and others held in cells throughout the capital be given immediate access to medical personnel, their families and others bringing food and their lawyers;
- urging an inquiry in allegations of beatings and torture threats;
- seeking assurances that these detainees and others will not be beaten or ill-treated whilst in detention;

- seeking assurances that all political detainees are given a prompt and fair trial.

**APPEALS TO:**

Prime Minister

Monsieur Léon KENGO Wa Dondo

Premier Ministre

Hôtel du Conseil Exécutif

Avenue des 32

Kinshasa - Gombe, ZAIRE

**Faxes: + 243 88 42062**

**Telegrams: Premier Ministre, Kinshasa, Zaire**

**Salutation: Monsieur le Premier Ministre**

Minister of Justice

Monsieur Joseph Nsinga Udju

Ministre de la Justice et Garde des sceaux

Ministère de la Justice

BP 3137, Kinshasa - Gombe, ZAIRE

**Fax: +243 88 43778 (if voice: "je voudrais envoyer un fax")**

**Telegrams: Ministre Nsinga, Kinshasa, Zaire**

**Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Dear Minister**

Minster of Interior

Monsieur Gérard Kamanda WA Kamanda

Ministre de l'Intérieur

Hotel du Conseil exécutif

Kinshasa-Gombe

République de Zaire

**Faxes: + 243 88 42062**

**Telegrams: Ministre de l'Interieur, Kinshasa, Zaire**

**Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Dear Minister**

**COPIES TO:**

Le General BARAMOTO

Chef d'Etat-major general des

Forcees armees zairoises (FAZ)

Ministere de la defense nationale

Kinshasa-Ngaliema

Zaire

and to diplomatic representatives of Zaire accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 18 January 1996.