AFR 62/027/2002

ENGLISH

Text on cover: STOP diamond company guards killing and wounding illicit miners in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Text at back:

Dear Gustave Luabeya Tshitala,

I am very concerned about the serious abuses being committed in MIBA's diamond concessions. According to Amnesty International, many dozens of illicit miners are being shot dead in cold blood, or seriously wounded, every year by MIBA guards. Others are being illegally detained and ill-treated in unofficial MIBA detention centres. Many of the victims are children. Yet it appears that MIBA is turning a blind eye to these abuses, since not a single MIBA guard is known to have been suspended from duty or brought to justice for any of these abuses.

As MIBA's new managing director, I am urging you to put an end to these abuses. You can do this by closing the illegal detention centres, by giving all MIBA guards proper law enforcement training, and by ensuring that all shooting incidents are properly investigated and suspected perpetrators brought to justice.

Yours sincerely,		
Signed:		
From (country)	 	

Address:

To: Mr. Gustave Luabeya Tshitala

Président Directeur Général

MIBA,

BP 377 / 378

Mbuji-Mayi

Democratic Republic of Congo