

PUBLIC

AI Index: AFR 62/28/99

Further information on UA 261/99 (AFR 62/26/99, 5 October 1999) -Incommunicado detention/Fear of Torture

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC)

Feu d'Or BONSANGE, music editor

Kala BONGAMBA, printer

Clovis KADDA, Director of publication - all working for the newspaper L'Alarme.

Feu d'Or Bonsange and Kala Bongamba were released without charge on 29 September 1999, two days after their arrest. Their case received a good deal of international attention, which according to them gave them a degree of protection and assisted in their quick release.

Clovis Kadda remains in hiding and is extremely scared. He was arrested on 22 September 1999 and severely tortured at the Kinshasa military headquarters, and was released the following day. Amnesty International is monitoring his situation.

It is standard practice in the DRC to strip detainees and then whip them with rope handcuffs. This is often done in dirty water, so that the wounds become infected. Journalism is considered a "*profession des escrocs*" (a swindlers' profession), in the words of President Kabila to an Amnesty International delegation which visited him in August this year.

No further action is required by the Urgent Action network. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.