

PUBLIC

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Incommunicado detention/fear of ill-treatment

8 November

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO Sister Antho FARI, Prison humanitarian worker

Amnesty International is calling for the immediate release of Sister Antho Fari, a human rights defender, who was arrested in Lumbumbashi, the capital of Katanga province, on 5 November 1999 by the *Agence nationale de renseignements* (ANR), National intelligence Agency. Sources in Lumbumbashi indicate that she may have been transferred to the capital, Kinshasa, on 6 November.

Sister Antho Fari was questioned by the ANR for two hours on 4 November. She was reportedly asked about her work with prisoners at Buluo, a top-security prison near Likasi in Katanga Province, where inmates are denied visits from their families and most humanitarian organizations. The following day she was again taken for questioning and later arrested.

Sister Antho Fari, a elderly nun from Likasi in Katanga province, has been visiting prisons in the province for many years. She has assisted inmates, many of whom have no contact with their families, lawyers or humanitarian agencies, and who have come to rely on her and her colleagues for basic needs such as food, clothes and medicines.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Hundreds of people in the Democratic Republic of Congo have been arrested for their perceived or actual opposition to the government of President Laurent Désiré Kabila. (RCD), Rally for Congolese Democracy. In recent months, dozens of human rights activists have been targeted for carrying out their work.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/e-mails in FRENCH or your own language:

- expressing concern that Sister Antho Fari is being held incommunicado and that she may be ill-treated;
- calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Sister Antho Fari if she is only held for her work for prisoners and is not to be charged with a recognizable criminal offence;
- calling for an end to the constant harassment, intimidation and arrest of human rights defenders in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

APPEALS TO:

President

Président Laurent-Désiré KABILA

Président de la République, Présidence de la République

Kinshasa-Ngaliema, Democratic Republic of Congo

Telegrams: Président, Kinshasa, DR Congo

e-mail: UPP@ic.cd

Salutation: Monsieur le Président de la République / Dear Président

Minister of Justice

Monsieur Mwenze KONGOLO

Ministre de la justice

Ministere de la justice

BP 3137 Kinshasa-Gombe, Democratic Republic of Congo

COPIES TO:

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Minister of Human Rights
Monsieur SHE OKITUNDU
Ministre de Droits humains
Ministère de Droits humain
Kinshasa-Gombe
République Démocratique du Congo

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 17 December 1999.