

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AFR 62/41/97

11 December 1997

Further information on EXTRA 163/97 (AFR 62/38/97, 27 November 1997) - Torture / Medical concern / Fear of torture / Prisoners of conscience

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Zahidi Arthur Ngoma
Ingele Ifoto
Justin Kampempe
Jean-Marie Lukudji

new name: Mosi Mwati, journalist

The four leaders of the political movement known as *Forces du Futur*, Forces of the Future, named above, are still in detention in Kinshasa. Seven other men, who had been arrested with them on 25 November 1997, were released on the evening of 27 November, after it had become clear that they had not been actively involved in the work of *Forces du Futur*.

Amnesty International has received more information about the ill-treatment of those who remain in custody. Zahidi Arthur Ngoma was whipped on his back and buttocks. Ingele Ifoto was reportedly beaten and tortured on his genitals. A soldier stabbed Justin Kampempe's eye with a pen. Justin Kampempe is reportedly seriously suffering from the injuries sustained during the ill-treatment and is reportedly still being denied access to a doctor. On 28 November, the four detainees were transferred from the Gendarmerie headquarters known as *Circo* to the *Centre pénitentiaire et de rééducation*, Penitentiary and Reeducation Centre, formerly known as Makala central prison, in Kinshasa. On 29 November, they were transferred to the prison of the newly established Security Court in Linguala, where they were held in a cellar and denied visits. On 2 December, they were transferred again to the *Centre pénitentiaire et de rééducation*.

One of the journalists briefly arrested with members of *Forces du Futur* on 25 November, Mosi Mwati, was rearrested by members of the security forces on the afternoon of 4 December at his house. He was first taken to a police station and the next day transferred to a detention centre of the *Police d'intervention rapide* (PRI), Rapid Intervention Police. On 8 December, he was transferred to a cell of the security service known as the *Agence nationale de renseignements* (ANR). His wife has been able to see him there but not allowed to speak to him. Apparently, Mosi Mwati has been interrogated several times at the *Conseil national de la sécurité* (CNS), National Security Council, but no official charges have been brought against him. The reasons for his rearrest are not known, but it might be related to his attendance of the *Forces du Futur* press conference. He is reportedly on hunger-strike.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/express/airmail letters in French or in your own language:

- expressing concern about the continued detention without charge of the four *Forces du Futur* leaders, and the rearrest of the journalist Mosi Mwati;
- calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Zahidi Arthur Ngoma, Ingele Ifoto, Justin Kampempe and Jean-Marie Lukudji, detained for exercising their right to freedom of expression and association;
- asking for the reasons of Mosi Mwati's arrest, and calling for his immediate and unconditional release, unless he is promptly charged with a recognisably criminal offence;

- calling for a prompt, independent and impartial investigation into the alleged torture and ill-treatment of the approximately 20 people arrested on 25 November, and to bring those responsible to justice;
- urging that immediate steps be taken to ensure that those still held will not be subjected to further ill-treatment or torture;
- urging that they be allowed immediate and full access to medical care, legal counsel and their families.

We are currently unable to obtain fax numbers for the DRC authorities. Therefore, please send equal numbers of appeals to (1) the authorities listed below and (2) to the diplomatic representatives of DRC in your country, asking them, as a matter of urgency, to forward your appeal on to the authorities in DRC

President

Son Excellence Laurent-Désiré KABILA
Président de la République
Présidence de la République
Kinshasa-Ngaliema
Democratic Republic of Congo

Telegrams: President Kabila, Kinshasa DR Congo

Salutation: Monsieur le Président de la République

Minister of Justice

M. Célestin LWANGI
Ministre de la Justice
Ministère de la Justice
BP 3137, Kinshasa-Gombe
Democratic Republic of Congo

Telegrams: Ministre Justice, Kinshasa, DR Congo

Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre

Minister of Foreign Affairs

M. Bizima KARAHA
Ministère des Affaires étrangères
BP 7100
Kinshasa-Gombe
République Démocratique du Congo

Telegrams: Ministre Affaires Etrangères, Kinshasa, DR Congo

Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre

COPIES TO:

Le Phare (independent newspaper), Fax: +1 212 3769270 (this is a number in the United States but the fax will be transmitted to *Le Phare*)

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 12 January 1998.