

Closing date: 30/09/05

**DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO
HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS NEED YOUR SUPPORT – UPDATE**

Closing text

Thank you for writing letters and cards to human rights activists in the DRC. You have given them courage and international recognition for their work.

The NGOs where Murhabazi Namegabe (BVES) and Marie-Dolorose Masika Kafanya (FEPSI) work have written to Amnesty International (AI) expressing their gratitude.

“We have received almost 1000 letters of support. Others continue to arrive from every corner of the world. ...They have given courage and moral support to BVES’ volunteers and the hundreds of children BVES shelters... To the children, the letters and cards have brought the joy of seeing that people around the world value their lives.”

Extract from a BVES letter to AI

Your action has positive impacts beyond expectations. In early August, a BVES team travelled with some of your cards and letters to a rural location to hold a public awareness session on child rights and child soldiers. One night soldiers broke into their hostel demanding money. They were distracted by the quantity of envelopes and cards from AI and asked about them. BVES took the opportunity to give them an informal child rights seminar.

AI continues to support FEPSI, BVES and other Congolese NGOs.