

URGENT ACTION

HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST HELD INCOMMUNICADO

Human rights activist Christopher Ngoyi Mutamba was arrested by armed men in military police uniform in Kinshasa on 21 January. His whereabouts remain unknown and he is at risk of enforced disappearance, torture and other ill-treatment.

Christopher Ngoyi Mutamba was arrested on 21 January at around 8:30 pm in the Victoire neighbourhood of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) capital, Kinshasa. He was forced into an unmarked white jeep by armed men wearing military police uniforms.

On 22 January, armed men in civilian clothes visited Christopher Ngoyi Mutamba's residence with a search warrant. They seized some of his documents.

Despite statements by the Congolese authorities that Christopher Ngoyi Mutamba is being held by the judicial authorities and that he will appear in court, his whereabouts remain unknown, including to his family and lawyers. No charges have been brought upon him by the Congolese authorities.

This puts Christopher Ngoyi Mutamba at high risk of torture and other ill-treatment. Incommunicado detention of human rights activists in the country has in the past resulted in enforced disappearances, murder, torture and/or other ill-treatment.

Christopher Ngoyi Mutamba should be immediately released or brought before a court and charged with a recognizable criminal offence. Under article 18(2) of the DRC Constitution, any person detained on remand must be transferred to the competent legal authorities or be released within 48 hours.

Please write immediately in French or your own language:

- Calling on the Congolese authorities to immediately reveal the whereabouts of Christopher Ngoyi Mutamba and ensure he has full and immediate access to a lawyer of his choosing, family members and medical assistance;
- Urging the Congolese authorities to guarantee that Christopher Ngoyi Mutamba is not subjected to torture and other ill-treatment;
- Calling on the Congolese authorities to promptly release him or charge him with a recognizable criminal offence before a court.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 12 MARCH 2015:

Minister of Justice and Human Rights

Alexis Tambwe Mwamba
Ministry of Justice and Human Rights
P.O Box 3137
Kinshasa/Gombe, DRC
Fax: +243 8805521
Email : min-droitshumains@yahoo.fr

Salutation: Dear Minister

Attorney General

Flory Kabange Numbi
P.O Box 7016 Kinshasa 1
Kinshasa, DRC
Email: pgr_rdc@yahoo.fr

Salutation: Dear Attorney General

And copies to:

Prime Minister

His Excellency Augustin Matata Ponyo
Office of the Prime Minister
5, avenue Roi Baudoin
Kinshasa/Gombe, DRC
Email: contact@primature.cd.
primaturercd@yahoo.fr,
cabinet@primature.cd

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:

Name Address 1 Address 2 Address 3 Fax Fax number Email Email address Salutation Salutation

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Christopher Ngoyi Mutamba is the president of the human rights NGO Congo Culture and Development Synergy (Synergie Congo culture et développement) and coordinator of the Civil Society of Congo (société civile du Congo). He is also a member of the Let's Save Congo (Sauvons le Congo) network which is a coalition of opposition parties and civil society organizations opposed to amendment of the constitution or any other laws in a bid to extend the term of President Kabila beyond December 2016.

From 19 to 21 January protests, some of which became violent, were held in Kinshasa by demonstrators opposing the amendment of the electoral code. They suspected the ruling majority of tying legislative and presidential elections to a general census and that this would extend President Kabila's term beyond December 2016. Dozens were killed, several others wounded and hundreds detained by law enforcement authorities during the protests.

Name: Christopher Ngoyi Mutamba
Gender m/f: m

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