

URGENT ACTION

NINE PEACEFUL PROTESTERS RELEASED AFTER TRIAL

Two activists from Lutte pour le Changement (LUCHA), Juvin Kombi Narcisse and Pascal Byumanine have been sentenced to three months in prison and fined 100,000 Congolese Francs (about 100 US Dollars) for organizing an ‘illegal’ demonstration. Seven others who were arrested with them have been acquitted.

LUCHA activists **Juvin Kombi Narcisse** and **Pascal Byumanine** were sentenced to three months in prison and fined 100,000 Congolese Francs (about 100 US Dollars) on 10 March for having organized an ‘illegal’ demonstration. Having already spent more than three months in detention, Juvin and Pascal were released the same day. **Innocent Fumbu Byunvohore, Sayi Heshima Wetemwami, Gervais Semunda Rwamakuba, Nelson Katembo Kalindalo, Jonathan Kambale Muhasa, Osée Kakule Kilala** and **Djodjo Semivumbi** who were arrested with them were acquitted.

Congolese authorities tear gassed and shot live bullets at civilians during a peaceful demonstration organized on 28 November 2015 by LUCHA, a youth movement, in Goma in honour of victims of the ongoing killings in Beni territory. The police used force despite LUCHA having informed the authorities of the protest in advance as required by law. 12 people, three of whom were reportedly minors, were arrested by police.

The prosecutor charged the nine with ‘criminal conspiracy, rebellion and incitement to revolt’ on 2 December 2015. They were transferred to the Central Prison, Munzenze where they were held until their release.

No further action is requested of the UA network. Many thanks to those who sent appeals.

This is the second update of UA 173/15. Further information: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr62/3290/2016/en/>

Name: Juvin Kombi, Pascal Byumanine, Innocent Fumbu Byunvohore, Sayi Heshima Wetemwami, Gervais Semunda Rwamakuba, Nelson Katembo Kalindalo, Jonathan Kambale Muhasa, Osée Kakule Kilala and Djodjo Semivumbi
Gender m/f: m

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