

PUBLIC

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Further information on UA 381/00 (AFR 62/31/00, 18 December 2000) - Fear of torture/"disappearance"/execution

Democratic Republic of Congo: Commander Anselme Masasu Nindaga; Commander Vincent Madjaga; Colonel Madoadoa; Colonel Kasongo; General Sebalende; police officer Bernard Munogolo; police officer Jimmy Katenda; police officer Batesema Mastaki; ANR member Guillaume Rugumbira Lwagunja; ANR member Odon Mweze; Ngalamulume Mukwege

New names: Jean-Marie Rusimbuku, UN staff member
Jeanine Mukanirwa, human rights activist
Aimée Ntabarusha Mungu and her baby, civil servant
At least 100 others from the Kivu region of eastern DRC

Over 100 people from the eastern region of Kivu, including civilians and members of the army and the security services, are now detained incommunicado in government-controlled DRC, apparently in connection with an alleged plot to mount a *coup d'état*.

All are held without charge, the majority in unofficial security service detention centres where torture is routine. Several have reportedly "disappeared" since their arrest, and there have been persistent, but unconfirmed reports that some may have been extrajudicially executed.

Among the latest to be detained is Jean-Marie Rusimbuka, a staff member of the United Nations Human Rights Field Office for the Congo (HRFOC), who was arrested at his home on 3 January. He is held at a security service detention centre known as the *Détection militaire des activités anti-patrie* (DEMIAP), Military Detection of Unpatriotic Activities. He was apparently arrested because he had regular contact with the family of Anselme Masasu Nindaga, one of the alleged ringleaders of the coup plot, as the HRFOC program officer responsible for people of Tutsi origin at risk.

Jeanine Mukanirwa from South Kivu was arrested in Kinshasa on 12 December and is also held incommunicado at DEMIAP. She is understood to have been arrested because she was suspected of helping relatives from Kivu to flee the DRC. She is a member of a Goma-based women's rights group, the *Programme d'Assistance aux Initiatives Femmes* (PAIF), Promotion and Support for Women's Initiatives.

Aimée Ntabarusha Mungu, a civil servant originally from South Kivu, was arrested in Kinshasa together with her three-month-old son David on 13 November 2000, seemingly because she had been lodging someone from the Kivu region. She was held incommunicado at the *Groupe Litho Moboti* building, a detention centre notorious for torture. On 23 November she and her baby were taken away in a truck with several other detainees. She has not been seen since. Amnesty International is greatly concerned that she and other detainees who have "disappeared" are at risk of torture and possible execution.

At least 10 of the 30 or so detainees held incommunicado at the *Centre pénitentiaire et de rééducation de Kinshasa* (CPRK), Kinshasa Penitentiary and Reeducation Centre, were reportedly taken to an unknown destination in

mid-December (see original UA). Police officer Jimmy Katende is believed to have been among those moved from the prison.

Anselme Masasu Nindaga is still reportedly held incommunicado in the south-eastern town of Lubumbashi. Other detainees are held at Camp Kokolo and Camp Tshatshi army barracks in Kinshasa, as well as at DEMIAP and the CPRK.

The wave of arrests of people from the eastern provinces of North and South Kivu began in October 2000 following the uncovering of an alleged plot to overthrow President Laurent-Désiré Kabila's government. It appears that anyone who is from, or has connections with, the Kivu region is at risk of arrest and incommunicado detention.

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

- expressing concern that over 100 people from the Kivu region are now detained without charge, including Jeanine Mukanirwa of PAIF and Jean-Marie Rusimbuka of HRFOC;
- expressing alarm that Aimée Ntabarusha Mungu and her baby have reportedly "disappeared", and urging the authorities to reveal where she and all the other detainees are held;
- expressing concern that the detainees are at risk of torture while held incommunicado, and calling for them to be granted immediate access to their families, lawyers and medical care;
- asking what formal charges, if any, the detainees face, asking that any legal proceedings against them conform to international fair trial standards, including the right to legal representation of choice, adequate time to prepare defence and the right to appeal before a higher court.

APPEALS TO:

President

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

Telegrams: President, Kinshasa, DR Congo

e-mails: UPP@ic.cd

Fax: + 243 88 02120 (It may be difficult getting through to this number - please be patient and keep trying)

Salutation: Monsieur le Président de la République / Dear Président

Minister of the Interior

Monsieur Gaëtan Kakudji
Ministre de l'Intérieur
Ministère de l'Intérieur
Kinshasa-Gombe, Democratic Republic of Congo

Telegrams:Ministre Kakudji, Kinshasa, DR Congo

Salutation:Monsieur le Ministre

Minister of Justice

Monsieur Mwenze KONGOLO
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

COPIES TO:

Minister of Human Rights

Professeur Kakez

Ministre des Droits humains

Ministère des Droits humains

Kinshasa-Gombe, Democratic Republic of Congo

e-mails: mininfordc@ic.cd

Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 20 February 2001.