

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Fear of torture/Incommunicado detention

1 April 1993

ZAIRE:

Mukendi Placide
Lukulungu Martin
Mbayi
Mutombo Anaclet
Mukuna Georges Anderson
Mbuyi Kalombo
Tshisimbi
Madame Kajinga Tambwe (female)

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of the eight above named people who were arrested by members of the security services in the capital, Kinshasa, between 25 and 27 March 1993. They are all known to be members of the Union pour la Démocratie et le Progrès Social (UDPS), the largest political party in Zaire opposed to President Mobutu Sese Seko.

Reports indicate that as many as 20 people were arrested during the night by agents of the Service national d'intelligence et de protection (SNIP), Zaire's security police, and taken to detention centres within the SNIP building in Kinshasa-Gombe. They are said to be held incommunicado and there are fears that they may be subjected to torture or other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

President Mobutu is locked in a bitter power struggle with Prime Minister Etienne Tshisekedi, head of the UDPS, who was elected by a pro-democracy National Conference in August 1992. Following riots by soldiers in January 1993, who were angry at being paid in controversial new banknotes which had been denounced as illegal tender by Prime Minister Tshisekedi and boycotted by supporters of his government, President Mobutu attempted to dismiss Tshisekedi and named a new Prime Minister, Faustin Birindwa, also a former UDPS activist. An executive sovereign body, also nominated by the National Conference, the Haut conseil de la république (HCR), has rejected Faustin Birindwa as Prime Minister and is trying to reach a compromise with President Mobutu.

Zaire now effectively has two Prime Ministers, and two heads of state who are competing for power. However, the security forces and the mass media are still controlled by President Mobutu, who continues to defy foreign pressure to yield to democratic reforms.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/express and airmail letters either in French, English or in your own language:

- expressing concern at the reported arrest by SNIP of members of the UDPS,

including the eight mentioned above, and their secret and incommunicado detention at the SNIP headquarters in Kinshasa-Gombe;

- urging that they be given immediate access to legal counsel, relatives and any necessary medical attention;

- expressing fears for their safety and seeking assurances that none of the detainees is being subjected to torture or other forms of cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment;

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- asking that their arrest be acknowledged, the reasons for it be made public and that they should not be detained further unless remanded in custody by a judge;

- explaining that if, as it appears, they were arrested and detained for belonging to the UDPS, then they are prisoners of conscience and unless they are to be promptly charged with recognizably criminal offences they should be released immediately and unconditionally.

APPEALS TO

1) President:

Son Excellence Monsieur Maréchal

MOBUTU Sese Seko

Président de la République

Kinshasa-Ngaliema

République du Zaïre

Telegrams: Président Maréchal Mobutu, Kinshasa, Zaïre

Telexes: 21368

Salutation: Monsieur le Président/Dear President

2) Chief of Staff of the Armed forces

Monsieur le Général

ELUKI Monga

Chef d'Etat-Major Général des Forces

armées zaïroises (FAZ)

Ministère de la Défense nationale

Kinshasa-Ngaliema

République du Zaïre

Telegrams: Chef d'Etat-Major Eluki, Kinshasa, Zaïre

Salutation: Monsieur le Chef d'Etat-Major/Dear General

3) Head of the national security service

Général MAVUA Mudina

Administrateur général du Service

national d'intelligence et de protection

BP 3060

Kinshasa-Gombe

République du Zaïre

Salutation: Monsieur l'Administrateur Général/Dear Sir

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Human Rights organization:

Ligue zairoise des droits de l'homme
20 rue Draily
6000 Charleroi
Belgium

and the following newspapers:

Le Potential

2 Avenue Msi-Manimba
BP 11338
Kinshasa 1
Zaire

Elima

BP 10017
Kinshasa-Limete
Zaire

and to diplomatic representatives of ZAIRE accredited to your country

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 13 May 1993.