

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AFR 62/03/98

23 January 1998

Further information on EXTRA 163/97 (AFR 62/38/97, 27 November 1997) and follow-up (AFR 62/41/97, 11 December) - Torture / Medical concern / Fear of torture / Prisoners of Conscience

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Zahidi Arthur Ngoma

Ingele Ifoto

Justin Kampempe

Jean-Marie Lukudji

Mossi Mwassi (corrected spelling), journalist

new name: Emmanuel Cole

Zahidi Arthur Ngoma, Ingele Ifoto, Justin Kampempe, Jean-Marie Lukudji and the journalist Mossi Mwassi are still in detention.

Zahidi Arthur Ngoma and the other three leading members of the political movement known as *Forces du Futur*, Forces of the Future, have been charged with endangering state security (*atteinte à la sûreté de l'Etat*) and with founding an illegal political party. They continue to be held at the *Centre pénitentiaire et de rééducation de Kinshasa*, the former Makala central prison.

Mossi Mwassi was transferred from the *Agence Nationale de Renseignements* (ANR) to the detention centre of the State Security Court, and then to the *Centre Pénitentiaire et de Rééducation* where he is currently held. He has stopped his hunger-strike. Mossi Mwassi has been charged with *atteinte à la sûreté de l'Etat*, forgery (*faux et usage de faux*), and trading of favours (*trafique d'influence*). During his interrogation, he has been accused of being in contact with Commandant Masasu, a former security advisor to President Laurent-Désiré Kabila and commander of the *Alliance des Forces démocratiques pour la libération du Congo* (AFDL) who was arrested in late November 1997. Amnesty International believes that these charges are fabricated, and that Mossi Mwassi is detained because of his work as a journalist. There are also reports that he might be detained because he has evidence about massacres of Hutu refugees by the AFDL.

Mossi Mwassi is a South African journalist who works as a correspondent for the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) and *Deutsche Welle*, a German radio station. Until recently, he lived in Brazzaville in the neighbouring Republic of Congo.

Emmanuel Cole, a Liberian citizen, was arrested on 27 December 1997 in connection with Mossi Mwassi's detention. He is President of the Bill Clinton Foundation, a Congolese political foundation. Emmanuel Cole was held at the *Conseil National de Sécurité* (CNS), National Security Council, until 16 January 1998, when he was released. He was apparently accused of being in contact with Mossi Mwassi. During his detention at the CNS, Emmanuel Cole was tortured. Members of the security forces made him lie on the floor and beat him with military belts and truncheons. He is still suffering from the wounds inflicted by these beatings. On 19 January, Emmanuel Cole was interrogated at the CNS. His identity card and other documents were seized.

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

- expressing concern about the continuing detention of Zahidi Arthur Ngoma, Ingele Ifoto, Justin Kampembe, Jean-Marie Lukudji, leaders of *Forces du Futur*, and the South African journalist Mossi Mwassi;
- urging the authorities to investigate reports that they and Emmanuel Cole were subjected to torture and other forms of cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, and to ensure that those found responsible are brought to justice;
- calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Zahidi Arthur Ngoma, Ingele Ifoto, Justin Kampembe, Jean-Marie Lukudji and Mossi Mwassi who Amnesty International believes are detained solely for exercising their right to freedom of expression and association;
- urging that they be allowed immediate and full access to medical care, legal counsel and their families.

President

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

Faxes: + 243 88 02120 (if clicks followed by message and no fax tone, try later)
Telegrams: President Kabila, Kinshasa, DR Congo
Salutation: Monsieur le Président de la République

Minister of Justice

M. 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

Minister of Foreign Affairs

M. Bizima KARAHA
Ministère des Affaires étrangères
BP 7100
Kinshasa-Gombe
République Démocratique du Congo

Telegrams: Ministre Affaires Etrangères, Kinshasa, DR Congo
Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre

COPIES TO:

Le Phare (independent newspaper), Faxes: +1 212 3769270 (this is a number in the United States, but the fax will be transmitted to *Le Phare*)

and to diplomatic representatives of the Democratic Republic of Congo accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 23 February 1998.