

PUBLIC  
23 April 2002

AI Index: AFR 62/006/2002

UA 122/02 Torture and ill-treatment / cruel, inhuman  
and degrading conditions of detention

DEMOCRATIC            Muhombo MIRIMO    (m) - aged 15 - school student  
REPUBLIC             Munihire MIRIMO   (m)  
OF CONGO             Muhima KAMAYOLE   (m)  
(DRC)/RWANDA        Floribert MIRIMO   (m)  
                         An unknown number of other detainees

Deceased: Weteshe MAHINDULE (m) - aged around 60

The four men named above and an unknown number of others are being held in incommunicado detention in a metal freight container at Ndosho, near the city of Goma in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The four men are reportedly in a poor state of health, as a result of their prolonged confinement in deplorable conditions inside the container. Amnesty International believes that they and other detainees held with them may also be subjected to ill-treatment or torture.

The container, which measures around two metres high and six metres long, is being used as a detention centre by the Rwandese Patriotic Army (RPA) and allied forces of the *Rassemblement congolais pour la démocratie - Goma* (RCD-Goma), Congolese Rally for Democracy. RPA soldiers are reportedly in charge of the centre.

Conditions in the container constitute cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment. Detainees suffer from crowded conditions, poor ventilation, no sanitation or medical care and an inadequate diet. They have little access to daylight, fresh air or physical exercise. During the day the container becomes stiflingly hot and is cold at night.

Weteshe Mahindule, who had been incarcerated in the container since February, died on 17 April. The day before his death he was transferred in agony to Goma's general hospital. He was reportedly undernourished, had been beaten and had not been provided with adequate medical care.

The four men named above and Weteshe Mahindule are members of the same family from the Masisi region of eastern DRC. All were arrested on 24 February having been accused of collaborating with a Congolese armed political group, the *mayi-mayi*.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

A large area of eastern DRC is under the control of the Rwandese government and allied RCD-Goma forces. They are opposed by the DRC government forces and an assortment of armed groups, including the *mayi-mayi*.

Amnesty International has documented the use of metal containers as detention centres in a number of locations in both the Ugandan and Rwandese-controlled zones of eastern DRC.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in English or French or your own language:**

- expressing concern for the safety of Muhombo MIRIMO, Munihire MIRIMO, Muhima KAMAYOLE, Floribert MIRIMO and others detained by Rwandese and RCD-Goma forces in a metal freight container at Ndosho, near Goma, and calling on the authorities to guarantee they will not be ill-treated or harmed through poor conditions of detention;
- calling for the detainees to be provided with immediate medical care, adequate diet and visits from family members, legal representatives, humanitarian and human rights organizations;

- calling for an end to detentions in the container at Ndosho and the transfer of those held there to locations where conditions are humane and do not endanger the lives of detainees;
- calling on the Rwandese and RCD-Goma authorities to make public the names of those detained at Ndosho, to clarify the charges against them and to bring the detainees promptly before a judicial authority so that the lawfulness of their detention can be determined;
- calling for a prompt, thorough and impartial investigation into the death of Weteshe MAHINDULE, which was reportedly caused by beatings and inhuman conditions of detention at Ndosho;
- calling for those responsible for his death through ill-treatment or neglect to be brought to justice.

**APPEALS TO:**

President of Rwanda  
 President Paul KAGAME  
 Office of the President  
 PO Box 15, Kigali, Rwanda  
**Fax: + 250 84769 / 84390**  
**e-mail: presirep@rwanda1.com**  
**Salutation: Your Excellency**

Army Chief of Staff Rwanda  
 Brigadier General James KABAREBE  
 Acting Chief of Staff  
 Rwandese Patriotic Army  
 RPA Headquarters  
 Kigali, Rwanda  
**Fax: + 250 72863 / 77992**  
**Salutation: Dear Chief of Staff**

RCD-Goma: AI does not have working fax numbers for RCD-Goma. Please send an **e-mail** to [rcdcongo@hotmail.com](mailto:rcdcongo@hotmail.com) or [rcd\\_congo@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:rcd_congo@yahoo.co.uk) and ask for your concerns to be forwarded to:

RCD Head of Justice and Human Rights  
 Maître Moïse Nyarugabo  
 Chef du Département de Justice, Droits Humains et Règlement de Conflits  
 Rassemblement congolais pour la démocratie - Goma  
**Salutation: Dear Chef du Département**

RCD Head of Interior  
 Dr Bizima Karaha  
 Chef du Département de Justice  
 Rassemblement congolais pour la démocratie - Goma  
**Salutation: Dear Chef du Département**

**COPIES TO:** Diplomatic representatives of Rwanda accredited to your country.  
**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 4 June 2002.