

PUBLIC

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Further information on UA 127/01 (AFR 62/009/2001, 22 May 2001) - Denial of medical treatment/Arbitrary detention

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC Jules-César Mayimbi, journalist, 47

OF CONGO (DRC)

Washington Lutumba, journalist, 56

Journalists Jules-César Mayimbi and Washington Lutumba were both provisionally released earlier this week, after more than six weeks in custody.

However, it is understood that the court action against them will continue. Both men are facing charges of libel (*imputations dommageables*) arising from articles in which they alleged that a consignment of wheat-flour was rotting when it was delivered, published in their respective newspapers in March 2001 (see original UA).

Jules-César Mayimbi is suffering from tuberculosis. It appears that either he contracted it in custody, at the central prison of Matadi in south-western DRC, or that it has been exacerbated by the conditions at the prison. Although a doctor was allowed to examine him in prison, he was not provided with any medicines.

Amnesty International will continue to monitor the trial proceedings and to explore means of ensuring that Jules-César Mayimbi receives the medical treatment he requires.

No further action is requested at this stage. Thank you to all of you who sent appeals.