

PUBLIC

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13 June 2002

Further information on UA 159/02 (AFR 62/008/2002, 30 May 2002) -
"Disappearance" / fear of torture or ill-treatment New Concerns: Prisoner of Conscience/Medical Concern

DEMOCRATIC

REPUBLIC OF
CONGO (DRC)/
RWANDA

Zélote FARINI LUENDO SHANDWE (m)

Released:

KIKANDI SHANDWE (m)
Bernard BAFULWA BARANGA (m)

New names:

Djento MAHUNGU (m) - civil society activist
Simon SALUMU (m) - trader

Kikandi Shandwe and Bernard Bafulwa Baranga were released without charge on 31 May. Zélote Farini is currently in detention, accused of taking part in a March 2002 grenade attack in Goma. The three men were feared "disappeared" on 27 May following a wave of arrests by the authorities.

Amnesty International is also concerned for two other men arrested at around the same time and who remain in detention. Djento Mahungu is a prisoner of conscience, whilst Simon Salumu requires urgent medical attention.

The two released men and Zélote Farini were held in a private house in Goma occupied by Rwandese Patriotic Army (RPA) officers. They were kept blindfolded and their arms tightly bound behind their backs throughout their detention, causing them excruciating pain. They were also made to sleep in the open, outside the house at night.

On 31 May the three men were presented at a "press conference" organized by the *Rassemblement congolais pour la démocratie - Goma* (RCD-Goma), Congolese Rally for Democracy, a Rwandese-backed armed opposition group and *de facto* authority in the region. At the conference Zélote Farini made statements incriminating himself in the grenade attack. Local sources believe he may have made these statements under duress. Kikandi Shandwe and Bernard Bafulwa were released after the press conference.

Djento Mahungu, a *chargé de relations publiques*, spokesperson, for Goma civil society, was arrested on 30 May. His arrest is believed to have been prompted by an interview he gave to international radio networks on the tense situation and series of arrests in Goma. Amnesty International believes he is a prisoner of conscience. He is detained at the G2, a division of the RCD-Goma military headquarters. Local human rights activists have been refused permission to see him.

Simon Salumu, a trader from Sake, near Goma, was arrested on 29 May by RPA soldiers. He is accused of being involved with an armed political group, the *mayi-mayi*, opposed to the RCD-Goma and to the Rwandese presence in the region. Witnesses report that he was badly beaten at the time of his arrest, including by being thrashed with *cordelettes*, military belts.

A relative who was able to see him in detention in Goma reported that he was in a poor state of health. He is detained at the *Direction générale de sécurité* (DGS), General Directorate for Security, in Goma. Amnesty International believes that he may be in urgent need of medical attention.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals in English or French or in your own language:

- welcoming the release of Kikandi Shandwe and Bernard Bafulwa Baranga;

- calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Djento Mahungu, unless he is to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence for which there is supporting evidence;
- calling for Simon Salumu to be given access to immediate medical attention, following reports that he was severely ill-treated at the time of his arrest;
- calling for assurances that Djento Mahungu, Simon Salumu and Zélote Farini will be protected from ill-treatment or torture while in detention;
- calling for the men to be given immediate access to human rights and humanitarian organizations, to visits by family members and legal representatives;
- calling for clarification of the charges and supporting evidence against all three men;
- demanding that those alleged to have ill-treated the detainees be brought to justice before an independent and impartial court of law.

APPEALS TO:

(Fax numbers may be difficult to get through to, but please keep trying.)

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

RCD-Goma Head of Justice and Human Rights
Maître Moise NYARUGABO
Chef du Département de Justice, Droits Humains et Règlement de Conflits
Rassemblement congolais pour la démocratie - Goma
Fax: + 250 54 06 96
Salutation: Dear Chef du Département

RCD-Goma Head of Interior
Dr Bizima KARAHA
Chef du Département de l'Intérieur
Rassemblement congolais pour la démocratie - Goma
Fax: + 250 54 06 96
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 25 July 2002.