

PUBLIC

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POC/Legal

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO Badouin Hamuli Kabarhuza, president of NGO network

Badouin Hamuli Kabarhuza was arrested in the capital, Kinshasa, on 6 April 1999. Amnesty International is concerned that he is at risk of torture.

Badouin Hamuli Kabarhuza is the president of a nationwide network of non-governmental organisations, the *Conseil national des organisations non-gouvernementales* (CNONG), National Council of Non-Governmental Organizations. He had been accused of collaborating with enemies of the Congolese authorities for attending an international meeting in South Africa to discuss bringing an end to the armed conflict in the DRC, and was arrested on his return.

Four other people who had been to the meeting were arrested on 14 March when they returned, and an Urgent Action (UA 47/99, AFR 62/09/99, 16 March) was issued on their behalf. One of them, Marie-Ange Lukiana, was released on 20 March while the other three were released on 29 March after President Kabila intervened.

Badouin Hamuli Kabarhuza is being held and interrogated by the same security service, the *Agence nationale de renseignements* (ANR), National Intelligence Agency. There are no facilities to hold prisoners at the ANR building and Badouin Hamuli Kabarhuza and several other detainees are obliged to sleep on the ground in its courtyard. Badouin Hamuli Kabarhuza has not been charged or appeared before a magistrate. At the time of Hamuli's arrest, his lawyer was himself briefly detained and warned by the ANR not to visit his client. His family have not been allowed to visit him. Amnesty International considers him a prisoner of conscience.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Renewed armed conflict broke out in the DRC in August 1998 when an army mutiny in the east of the country led to the creation of the *Rassemblement congolais pour la démocratie*, (RCD), Congolese Rally for Democracy. The RCD, which is backed by the armies of Rwanda, Burundi and Uganda, now effectively controls a large swathe of territory in eastern DRC.

The DRC government, supported by Zimbabwe, Angola, Namibia and Chad, is now engaged in a massive counter-offensive operation, but has continued to lose more territory, despite making some gains at the start of 1999. A state of heightened paranoia has been evident in the capital for several months. Persecution of those suspected of not supporting the government has resulted in severe human rights violations including extrajudicial executions, torture, arbitrary arrest, unfair trial and the death penalty.

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

- calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Badouin Hamuli Kabarhuza;
- urging that any others arrested on suspicion of treason or collaborating with the enemy and related offences are able to exercise their fundamental right to fair trial and are not tortured or otherwise ill-treated.

APPEALS TO:

President

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

Telegrams: Président, Kinshasa, DR Congo

Faxes: + 243 88 02120

Salutation: Monsieur le Président de la République / Dear President Kabila

E-mail: UPP@ic.cd

Minister of Justice

Monsieur Mwenze KONGOLO
Ministre de la justice
Ministere de la justice
BP 3137 Kinshasa-Gombe, Democratic Republic of Congo

Telegrams: Ministre Justice, Kinshasa, DR Congo

Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

Minister of information

M. Didier MUMENGI
Ministre de l'Information et du Tourisme
Ministère de l'information
Kinshasa-Gombe
Democratic Republic of Congo
e-mail: mininfordc@ic.cd

Minister for Human Rights

M. Léonard She Okitundu
Ministre des Droits humains
Ministère des droits humains
Kinshasa-Gombe
Democratic Republic of Congo

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 25 May 1999.