

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Fear of extrajudicial execution

5 October 1993

ZAIRE

Félix Mbayi Kalombo

Lambert Tshitshimbi Katombe

both former army colonels and security advisers to opposition Prime Minister
Etienne Tshisekedi

Amnesty International is seriously concerned for the safety of these two men.

On 19 September 1993, Félix Mbayi Kalombo was shot in the right leg when several bullets were fired into his house in the capital Kinshasa. His attackers are believed to have been members of the security forces, some of whom kept watch over neighbouring homes to prevent people from responding to calls for help. Mbayi's property was looted during the attack. There have been unconfirmed reports that security agents have been attempting to kill Mbayi at the Cilinique Ngaliema hospital where he is undergoing treatment for his injuries. Lambert Tshitshimbi Katombe is apparently in hiding fearing for his life after being trailed by security agents in Kinshasa.

Félix Mbayi Kalombo and Lambert Tshitshimbi Katombe had been arrested in March and April 1993 respectively. They were accused of plotting against President Mobutu Sese Seko. They were recently released from custody after the courts granted them provisional release. Sources in Kinshasa report that they are being targeted because the courts failed to keep them in custody.

The authorities are not known to have taken any action to protect these two men or other opponents of President Mobutu whose lives are in danger, or to identify those responsible for the attacks.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Since 1990, violence by the security forces and President Mobutu's other supporters has escalated; hundreds, perhaps thousands of civilians have been executed extrajudicially by government troops or killed by what the authorities claim are "unknown gunmen". Others have simply "disappeared". President Mobutu's supporters and allies have fanned ethnic violence, causing thousands to die. The victims have been people known or suspected of opposing President Mobutu and his political supporters or allies.

On 16 September 1993 Amnesty International published a report on Zaire entitled Violence against Democracy to call on the international community - including governments - to devise ways and means to bring an end to the growing crisis in Zaire. A statement issued by the President's Office claimed that the "report makes allegations which are tendentious and which aim only at sabotaging the continuing political consultations and at influencing certain international circles with the aim of destabilising the Republic of Zaire". The statement

did not announce any measures to bring human rights violations to an end or any investigation into reports of abuses.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/express and airmail letters in French, English or in your own language:

- expressing concern at the attack and wounding of Félix Mbayi Kalombo and asking that his safety be guaranteed;
- expressing concern that Lambert Tshitshimbi Katombe has apparently been trailed by security agents who appear to pose a threat to his security;
- expressing concern that the attacks and threats appear to have been carried out by members of the security forces and supporters of President Mobutu Sese Seko;
- asking the authorities to take urgent practical steps and set up an independent and impartial inquiry into the shooting of Félix Mbayi Kalombo and the trailing of Lambert Tshitshimbi Katombe with a view to bringing those responsible to justice;
- requesting the authorities to provide protection in general for those being attacked or threatened and make public instructions that those found responsible will be brought to justice.

APPEALS TO

1) President:

Son Excellence Monsieur le Maréchal MOBUTU Sese Seko
Président de la République
Kinshasa-Ngaliema
République du Zaïre

Telegrams: Président Mobutu, Kinshasa, Zaïre

Telexes: 21481, 21420, 21369

Salutation: Monsieur le Président/Dear President

2) Chief of Staff of the Armed forces

Monsieur le Grand amiral ELUKI Monga
Chef d'Etat-Major Général des Forces armées zaïroises (FAZ)
Ministère de la Défense nationale
Kinshasa-Ngaliema
République du Zaïre

Telegrams: Chef d'Etat-Major Eluki, Kinshasa, Zaire

Telexes: 21481, 21420, 21369

Salutation: Monsieur le Chef d'Etat-Major/Dear Grand Admiral

3) Governor of Kinshasa

Monsieur MUNGUL Diaka
Gouverneur de la ville de Kinshasa
Hôtel de ville
Kinshasa
République du Zaïre

Telegrams: Gouverneur Mungul, Kinshasa, Zaire

Salutation: Monsieur le Gouverneur

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

1) Head of the national security service

Monsieur TUTU Ambago
Administrateur général du Service national d'intelligence et de protection
BP 3060
Kinshasa-Gombe, République du Zaïre

2) Human Rights organization:

La Voix des sans voix
Galeries Pumbu (EX. Albert)
Boulevard du 30 juin
BP 11445
Kinshasa - Gombe, Zaire

Le Potentiel (newspaper)
2 Avenue Msi-Manimba
BP 11338
Kinshasa 1, Zaire

Elima (newspaper)
BP 10017
Kinshasa-Limete, Zaire

and to diplomatic representatives of Zaire accredited to your country

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 16 November 1993.