

PUBLIC

AI Index: AFR 62/21/99

31 August 1999

Further information on EXTRA 119/99 (AFR 62/20/99, 27 August 1999) - Fear for safety /arbitrary arrest

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Mushizi Nfundiko Kizito, journalist
Omba Kamengele, journalist

New name:Raphael Wakenge, human rights activist

Raphael Wakenge, a leading member of the human rights organization *Héritiers de la Justice*, was arrested on the evening of 27 August 1999 in Bukavu, South Kivu province. Amnesty International is concerned for his safety.

His arrest is believed to be linked to the arrests of the journalists Mushizi Nfundiko Kizito and Omba Kamengele, who are now detained in Bukavu Central Prison. They were arrested on 25 August 1999 and accused of using their radio receiver to listen to sensitive military transmissions. Amnesty International remains concerned for their safety.

Raphael Wakenge was taken to the *Auditorat militaire*, military prosecutor's office, for questioning on 27 August, after Mushizi Nfundiko Kizito and Omba Kamengele had been interrogated. He was apparently accused of helping the two journalists to obtain sensitive military information. He was held there overnight and taken to the Central Prison the next day. There are concerns that his arrest might be politically motivated, because of his work as a human rights activist. Raphael Wakenge has been producing human rights programmes on Radio Maendeleo, where Mushizi Nfundiko Kizito and Omba Kamengele work.

Héritiers de la Justice has faced threats from the authorities in recent months. Following their arrest, the governor of South Kivu province accused them publicly of "collaborating with the enemy".

RECOMMENDED ACTION: These appeals are addressed to the Rwandese government, the main political and military ally of the RCD, because Amnesty International has not been able to establish any direct contact with the RCD. Please send telegrams/faxes/express/airmail letters in French or your own language:

- expressing concern about the arbitrary arrest of Raphael Wakenge, leading member of the human rights organization *Héritiers de la Justice*, on 27 August 1999 in Bukavu;
- expressing concern about the arbitrary arrest and detention by RCD soldiers of Mushizi Nfundiko Kizito and Omba Kamengele, respectively Director and Information Officer at Radio Maendeleo, on 25 August 1999 in Bukavu;
- expressing concern that their arrests might be politically motivated because of their work as journalists and human rights activists;
- expressing concern for their safety, since other detainees in the DRC are known to have been severely ill-treated;
- calling on the Rwandese authorities to use their influence with the RCD to ensure the safety of the three detainees, and their immediate and unconditional release, unless they are to be charged with a recognisable criminal offence;
- calling on the Rwandese authorities to use their influence with the RCD to ensure that Raphael Wakenge, Mushizi Nfundiko Kizito and Omba Kamengele are allowed access to their family, doctors and lawyers of their choice;

- calling on the Rwandese authorities to ensure that their troops and the RCD respect the right to freedom of expression;
- calling on the Rwandese authorities to investigate whether Rwandese soldiers were involved in these arbitrary arrests, and if so, for them to be brought to justice.

APPEALS TO:

President Pasteur Bizimungu
Office of the President
BP 15, Kigali, Rwanda
Telegrams: President, Kigali, Rwanda
Faxes: + 250 84390
Salutation: Monsieur le Président / Dear President Bizimungu

Major General Paul Kagame
Vice-President and Minister of Defence
Ministry of Defence
BP 23, Kigali, Rwanda
Telegrams: Major General Kagame, Kigali, Rwanda
Faxes: + 250 76969 / 72431
Salutation: Monsieur le Vice-Président / Dear Vice-President

Colonel Kayumba NYAMWASA
Chief of Staff of the Rwandese Patriotic Army (RPA)
Ministry of Defence
KIGALI, Rwanda
Faxes: + 250 76969 / 72431

COPIES TO: the embassy of Rwanda in your country if there is one

and to diplomatic representatives of the DRC accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 28 September 1999.