

PUBLIC

AI Index: AFR 62/23/99

3 September 1999

Further information on UA 126/99 (AFR 62/16/99, 2 June 1999) (Torture/Legal concern)

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC) Laurent Kantu Lumpungu, president of the
Association des cadres pénitentiaires
(Association of Prison Officials)

Prisoner of conscience Laurent Kantu Lumpungu has been held incommunicado and without charge since 29 May 1999.

Amnesty International delegates on mission to the DRC raised their concerns about Laurent Kantu Lumpungu during a meeting with President Laurent Kabila and other government officials on 24 August 1999. Following their meeting the delegates learned that Laurent Kantu Lumpungu's case was to be referred to the *Cour d'Ordre Militaire* (COM), Military Order Court. It is not yet clear whether he has been charged.

The COM is an exceptional court, which offers no recourse for appeal and therefore does not conform to international standards for fair trial. Amnesty International has been campaigning for the reform or abolition of the court, which has sentenced dozens of people to death. The court has been used to try political prisoners and is gradually eroding standard civilian and military jurisdiction. An increasing number of cases are now appearing before this court. Some of those convicted are considered by Amnesty International to be prisoners of conscience. Furthermore, the court has led to a drastic increase in the use of the death penalty.

Laurent Kantu Lumpungu, president of the *Association des cadres pénitentiaires* (Association of Prison Officials) was arrested on 29 May 1999 while on duty at the capital's main prison, the *Centre pénitentiaire et de rééducation de Kinshasa*, (CPRK). He was reportedly whipped after he was taken to the main police station, the *Inspection provinciale de la police* (IPK). He was later transferred to the CPRK.

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

- calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Laurent Kantu Lumpungu;
- calling for an investigation into allegations of ill-treatment and whippings at the *Inspection provinciale de la police* and for those found responsible to be brought to justice;
- calling for an end to all incommunicado detention in the DRC.

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

e-mail: UPP@ic.cd

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

Minister of Justice

Monsieur Mwenze KONGOLO

2

Ministre de la justice
Ministere de la justice
BP 3137 Kinshasa-Gombe, Democratic Republic of Congo
Telegrams: Ministre Justice, DR Congo
Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre/Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

Minister for Human Rights
M. Léonard She OKITUNOU
Ministre des droits humains
Ministère des droits humains
Kinshasa-Gombe
République Démocratique du Congo
e-mail: mininfordc@ic.cd

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 14 October 1999.