

PUBLIC

AI Index: AFR 62/23/00

26 September 2000

Further information on UA 284/00 (AFR 62/22/00, 15 September 2000) - Health / Prisoner of conscience

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC)

Freddy Loseke Lisumbu la Yayenga, journalist

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On 25 September 2000 Freddy Loseke Lisumbu la Yayenga was finally admitted, under armed escort, to a hospital in the DRC capital Kinshasa where initial examinations revealed him to be suffering from a slipped disc. He was said to be in great pain. Although he is now reported to be taking a course of treatment in prison, Amnesty International remains concerned the authorities may be continuing to impose restrictions on the treatment he receives, thereby further endangering his health.

Freddy Loseke, editor of the *La Libre Afrique* (Free Africa) newspaper, is serving a three year prison sentence passed by a military court after he published an article alleging that a military commander was plotting to kill President Kabila. Amnesty International considers him a prisoner of conscience. The authorities had ignored medical reports and an appeal that he should be released for specialised medical care. Severe beatings and other ill-treatment in custody appear to have caused or aggravated his illness.

Today, 26 September, he was returned to the *Centre pénitenciaire et de rééducation de Kinshasa* (CPRK), Kinshasa Penitentiary and Reeducation Centre, pending further medical examinations to determine what further treatment he requires and whether he needs to be readmitted to hospital.

Freddy Loseke considers that the action undertaken on his behalf by Amnesty International, and other concerned organisations, was instrumental in securing his admission to hospital. He has expressed his deep gratitude to all those who sent appeals.

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

- welcoming the recent admission of Freddy Loseke to hospital for urgent medical treatment;
- expressing dismay that he has since been returned to the CPRK where he remains in a poor state of health;
- urging that he receive without delay any further medical treatment he requires, including readmission to hospital if necessary;
- reiterating calls for the immediate and unconditional release of Freddy Loseke, whom AI considers to be a prisoner of conscience, detained solely for undertaking legitimate journalistic activities;
- demanding an impartial inquiry into allegations that Freddy Loseke was tortured in detention, with a view to bringing any suspected torturers to justice.

**APPEALS TO:**

President

Président Laurent-Désiré KABILA

Président de la République, Présidence de la République

Kinshasa-Ngaliema, Democratic Republic of Congo

**Telegrams: President, Kinshasa, DR Congo**

**e-mails: UPP@ic.cd**

**Fax: +243 880 2120 (this number may be very difficult to get through to)**

**Salutation: Monsieur le Président de la République / Dear Président**

Minister of Justice

Monsieur Mwenze KONGOLO

Ministre de la justice

Ministère 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 Human Rights

Monsieur Léonard SHE OKITUNDU

Ministre des Droits humains

Ministère des Droits humains

Kinshasa-Gombe, Democratic Republic of Congo

**e-mails: mininfordc@ic.cd**

**Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Dear Minister**

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 7 November 2000.