

PUBLIC

AI Index: AFR 62/24/00

29 September 2000

Further information on UA 179/00 (AFR 62/13/00, 26 June 2000) and follow-ups (AFR 62/16/00, 7 July 2000; AFR 62/18/00, 16 August 2000) - Arbitrary arrest / Fear of torture

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC Pastor Tshisumpa, National Prison Fellowship in
OF CONGO (DRC) Congo (FNPC) president
Jonas Mukamba Kadiata, FNPC member

Jonas Mukamba Kadiata and Pastor Tshisumpa have both been admitted to hospital in Kinshasa, after their health continued to deteriorate in prison.

Jonas Mukamba Kadiata, who is reportedly unable to walk unassisted because his leg is so swollen, was hospitalised on 13 September. His lawyers had requested that he be provisionally released, at a Supreme Court of Justice (*Cour suprême de Justice*) hearing earlier that day, but the court has not yet ruled on the request.

Pastor Tshisumpa was admitted to hospital on 22 September, suffering from hypertension and, reportedly, appendicitis. He has been in poor health for some time as a result of poor conditions of detention.

Pastor Tshisumpa is the president of a prisoner support group, the *Fraternité nationale de prison au Congo* (FNPC), National Prison Fellowship in Congo. He is also the president of the DRC branch of the International Society for Human Rights (ISHR), an international non-governmental organisation.

Jonas Mukamba Kadiata, also an FNPC member, is a former director of a state-owned diamond mining company. He had previously been arrested in April 1997 by the armed group that brought President Laurent-Désiré Kabila to power. He was released in June 1997.

Both men have been detained since June 2000 on charges of endangering state security (*atteinte à la sûreté de l'Etat*). The basis for the charges is not known, but Amnesty International has documented a number of cases in which the DRC authorities have used these or similar charges to clamp down on their real or perceived opponents.

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

- welcoming the news that Jonas Mukamba Kadiata and Pastor Tshisumpa were recently allowed to seek medical treatment, and urging the authorities to continue to allow them to receive any medical attention they need;
- seeking further information on the charges against the two men, and assurances that legal proceedings against them will conform to international standards of fairness, including a right to appeal to a higher court if they are convicted;
- urging the authorities to release both men without delay if they have been detained solely on account of their non-violent activities as FNPC members.

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

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

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 10 November 2000.