

# URGENT ACTION

## WHEREABOUTS OF TWO LUCHA ACTIVISTS UNKNOWN

**Two youth activists from the youth movement Lutte pour le Changement (LUCHA) were arrested in Kinshasa just hours before a general strike called for by the political opposition and civil society in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). They may have been subjected to enforced disappearance.**

Two LUCHA activists, **Bienvenu Matumo** and **Marc Heritier Capitaine** were arrested in the early morning of 16 February in Kinshasa. The two were hiding in a hotel, after they realised they had been followed. In their last communication with their contacts, they indicated that they were being arrested.

The youth movement LUCHA supported the general strike held in protest against delays in the preparations for DRC's 2016 presidential elections.

The whereabouts of Bienvenu Matumo and Marc Heritier Capitaine remain unknown and the authorities have not confirmed their arrest. Bienvenu Matumo was subjected to arbitrary arrest and incommunicado detention for three days in August 2015 by the national intelligence agency.

Amnesty International is concerned that the two activists may have been subjected to enforced disappearance.

### Please write immediately in French or your own language:

- Expressing concern that Bienvenu Matumo and Marc Heritier Capitaine may have been subjected to enforced disappearance and urging the authorities to immediately disclose their whereabouts if they are in their custody;
- Calling on them to ensure that, if Bienvenu Matumo and Marc Heritier Capitaine are under their custody, they are protected from torture and other ill-treatment and given prompt access to their family, lawyer and any medical attention they may require pending their immediate and unconditional release.

### PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 31 MARCH 2016 TO:

#### Minister of Justice

Monsieur Alexis Tambwe Mwamba  
Ministère de la Justice  
228 Avenue de Lemera  
BP 3137  
Kinshasa-Gombe  
RDC  
Email: minjustdh@gmail.com  
**Salutation: Honourable Minister**

#### Minister of Interior and Security

Professor Evariste Boshab  
Ministry of Interior and Security  
Avenue Roi Baudouin  
Kinshasa-Gombe  
RDC  
Email: ngomamundulu@gmail.com  
**Salutation: Honourable Minister**

#### **And copies to:**

#### Prime Minister

His Excellency Augustin Matata Ponyo  
Office of the Prime Minister  
5 avenue Roi Baudouin  
Kinshasa/Gombe, DRC  
Email: cabinet@primature.cd

**Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:**

Name Address 1 Address 2 Address 3 Fax Fax number Email Email address Salutation Salutation

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

DRC's President Joseph Kabila has been in office since 2001 and was declared winner of the 2006 and 2011 elections. The Congolese constitution limits a president to two consecutive terms. As the November 2016 elections draw closer, calls for President Kabila to step down have intensified, as has the government crackdown on those voicing these views.

Opposition leaders and civil society organizations called for a general strike (known as *ville morte*, or dead city) on 16 February. They asked the population to stay at home in protest of delays in the preparations for the presidential elections due to take place in DRC by the end of 2016. LUCHA supported the general strike.

LUCHA is a youth movement that was created in Goma, the provincial capital of North Kivu in DRC, in 2012. The movement is known for its peaceful actions. They organize sit-ins, demonstrations and other actions to claim their rights and those of the people of DRC. They have continuously called for the organization of elections within constitutional deadlines and for respect of the presidential term limits outlined in DRC's Constitution.

The authorities have accused LUCHA of being a criminal movement, set up with the aim of disturbing public order. At least 19 of their members and sympathisers are currently detained.

Name: Bienvenu Matumo and Marc Heritier Capitaine

Gender m

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