

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AFR 62/04/97

EXTRA 13/97 Ill-treatment / Fear of torture /
Medical concern

3 February 1997

ZAIRE **KYAMUSOKE Gabriel, civil servant, trade unionist**
BANZWA KABO Blaise, civil servant, trade unionist

On 27 January 1997, Gabriel Kyamusoke and Blaise Banzwa Kabo, two leaders of the trade union *Solidarité*, were severely beaten when eight men in plain clothes, believed to be members of the security forces, arrested Gabriel Kyamusoke in his office in Zaire's capital, Kinshasa.

Following these beatings, Gabriel Kyamusoke, who was bleeding from his mouth, was taken away in a minibus to the Civil Guard's (*Garde civile*) premises at Kinshasa's residential Ngaliema district. There, he allegedly suffered further ill-treatment and beatings.

Gabriel Kyamusoke was reportedly then transferred in the same vehicle to the Civil Guard's Headquarters in Kinshasa's Gombe district together with Blaise Banzwa Kabo who had come to inquire after his colleague in Ngaliema. After a brief interrogation they were both detained and are still being held in Gombe. The reasons for their arrest and continuing detention are not clear. Amnesty International fears they may suffer further beatings and may be in need of medical attention.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

During late 1995 and 1996, trade unionists belonging to "Solidarité", which represents civil servants who work in Zaire's national tax office, the *Direction generale des contributions (DGC)*, General Direction of Contributions, were repeatedly subjected to arrest, torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment by members of the Civil Guard. The union has organized a number of strikes and protests in the last two years after long delays in the payment of salaries. The strikes and protests were on several occasions brutally suppressed by the Civil Guard and by the *Gendarmerie Nationale*, the National Gendarmerie.

Amnesty International has documented dozens of recent cases of trade unionists, journalists, members of human rights groups, and others in Zaire who have been subjected to arbitrary arrest and torture.

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

- expressing deep concern at reports that Gabriel Kyamusoke and Blaise Banzwa Kabo have been beaten by members of the *Garde Civile*;
- urging that the two detainees be given access to medical treatment immediately and that their safety in detention be guaranteed;
- seeking assurances that they will be promptly charged with a recognizable criminal offence, or released;
- asking that an investigation into the reports of beatings be initiated and anyone found responsible for ordering or carrying out such beatings be brought to justice;
- urging that members of the security forces be instructed that beatings are illegal and in contravention of international standards, to which Zaire has adhered.

APPEALS TO:

Justice Minister

Monsieur THIBWABWA Ashila Pashi
Ministre de la Justice
des réformes institutionnelles
et Garde des Sceaux
Ministère de la Justice
BP 3137

Kinshasa-Gombe

République du Zaïre

Telegrams: Ministre Justice, Kinshasa, Zaire

Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Dear Minister

Minister of Defence

Général LIKULIA Bolongo
Ministre de la Défense nationale
et des anciens combattants
Ministère de la Défense
BP 4734, Kinshasa-Gombe

République du Zaïre

Telegrams: Ministre Defense, Kinshasa, Zaire

Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

Prime Minister

Monsieur KENGO WA DONDO Léon
Premier Ministre
Hôtel du Conseil exécutif
Kinshasa-Gombe
République du Zaïre

and to diplomatic representatives of Zaire accredited to your country (or to the Zaire Ambassador in Belgium : 30 rue Marie du Bourgogne, 1040 Brussels, Belgium, Fax: 322 514 0403)

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 4 March 1997.