

30 August 2002

Further information on UA 120/02 (AFR 62/005/2002, 22 April 2002) and follow-up (AFR 62/007/2002, 29 April 2002) - Arbitrary arrest / prisoner of conscience
New concern: denial of medical treatment

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

N'sii Luanda Shandwe (m), human rights
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N'sii Luanda Shandwe has fallen seriously ill in detention in Kinshasa's main prison, the *Centre Pénitentiaire et de rééducation de Kinshasa* (CPRK), Kinshasa Penitentiary and Re-education Centre. He is currently receiving basic treatment in the prison infirmary, but is being denied access to more effective medical treatment.

N'sii Luanda Shandwe is suffering from both typhoid and acute malaria. He is currently on a drip and receiving strong painkillers. He has been suffering from poor health, including stomach pains, for much of his four months in detention. Following medical examinations, CPRK doctors have established that N'sii Luanda Shandwe will probably need an operation and special treatment for his stomach pains.

Prison doctors have reportedly recommended on at least two occasions that he should be transferred to a better equipped medical centre outside the prison where he can receive more effective medical treatment, but the prison authorities are apparently preventing his transfer. They have only agreed for N'sii Luanda Shandwe to be transferred to another medical centre if his personal doctor guarantees that he will be under close surveillance. However, prison authorities have not yet made any moves towards transferring him, despite the repeated efforts of his personal doctor to persuade the authorities to act.

N'sii Luanda Shandwe has been charged with treason and is facing trial before a military tribunal known the *Cour d'ordre militaire* (COM), Military Order Court. Amnesty International considers him to be a prisoner of conscience who has been imprisoned for his human rights activism.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals in French, English or your own language:

- urging the immediate transfer of N'sii Luanda Shandwe to a medical centre where he can receive appropriate medical treatment;
- expressing concern at his continuing detention, despite the apparent absence of any recognizable evidence of criminal wrongdoing against him;
- stating that you consider him to be a prisoner of conscience, detained because of his human rights activities;
- calling for his immediate and unconditional release.

APPEALS TO:

Minister of Human Rights
Professeur Ntumba Luaba
Ministre de Droits humains
Ministère de Droits humains
33/C Boulevard du 30 juin
Kinshasa-Gombe

République démocratique du Congo

Email: ntumbaluaba@yahoo.fr

Min_droitshumains@yahoo.fr

Fax: + 243 12 20 664 (this number can be very difficult to get through to)

Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Dear Minister

COM Prosecutor

Colonel Charles Alamba Mongako

Procureur général près la Cour d'ordre militaire

Palais de Justice, BP 7016

Kinshasa-Gombe

République démocratique du Congo

Salutation: Monsieur le Procureur général / Dear Prosecutor

Director of the Kinshasa Penitentiary and Reeducation Centre

Monsieur Kitunga Killy Dido

Directeur du CPRK

Centre pénitentiaire et de rééducation de Kinshasa

Kinshasa-Makala

République démocratique du Congo

Salutation: Monsieur le Directeur / Dear Director

COPIES 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 11 October 2002.