

PUBLIC

AI Index: AFR 62/028/2001

10 September 2001

Further information on UA 143/01 (AFR 62/013/2001, 6 June 2001) and follow-ups (AFR 62/014/2001, 8 June 2001; AFR 62/017/2001, 15 June 2001; AFR 62/019/2001, 19 June 2001; AFR 62/022/2001, 5 July 2001; AFR 62/023/2001, 13 July 2001)
- Arbitrary arrest / fear of torture

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

released: N'sii Luanda Shandwe (m), human rights defender
Six detainees held at Kinshasa's central prison
still detained: Anne-Marie Kamwanya Masumbuko (f)
Around 50 other detainees held at Kinshasa's central prison

Human rights defender N'sii Luanda Shandwe was finally freed without charge on 6 September 2001 after spending three months as a prisoner of conscience at Kinshasa's main prison. He is reported to be in good health.

Six other detainees who had been held with him in the cell-block known as *pavillon 1* were released at the same time. They were Mirindi Fraterne, Swapele Nando, Mande Lezi, Angélique Bibago and Ramazini, all of whom are civilians, and Captain Safari.

One of N'sii Luanda's first acts on being released was to give an interview to British BBC radio, during which he made an impassioned plea for the release of fellow human rights activist Golden Misabiko, who continues to be held as a prisoner of conscience in *pavillon 1*.

Around 50 other people also continue to be detained there, apparently in connection with their alleged role in the assassination of President Laurent-Désiré Kabila in January 2001, although none of them have been formally charged.

Amnesty International would like to thank all those who sent appeals on behalf of N'sii Luanda.

No further action is required by the Urgent action network at present. Thank you for all your efforts. Amnesty International is continuing to campaign for the release of other prisoners of conscience held in *pavillon 1*, including Anne-Marie Kamwanya Masumbuko and Golden Misabiko. (See UA 118/01 and follow-ups)