

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Fred and Yves



BEHIND BARS FOR PROMOTING DEMOCRACY

Congolese activists Yves Makwambala and Fred Bauma were arrested on 15 March 2015 during a press conference in Kinshasa at which three Democratic Republic of Congo youth movements launched a platform called Filimbi ('whistle'). Filimbi aims to strengthen civic education among young people ahead of the 2016 general elections. Fred and Yves were kept in secret detention for two weeks by the national intelligence service, without access to family or lawyers. Yves was transferred to Makala prison in Kinshasa after 40 days, followed by Fred 10 days later. They face a range of charges, including 'conspiracy against the head of state', which carries the death penalty.

+ www.amnesty.org.uk/filimbi



'Cracking down on the youth, who are supposed to be the future of the country, is sending a worrisome signal that their news and concerns do not count to the government'
Fadel Barro, member of the youth group Y'en a Marre (Fed Up)

SEND A SOLIDARITY CARD TO:

Yves Makwambala and Fred Bauma
c/o Amnesty International – Regional Office for East Africa, the Horn and the Great Lakes,
PO Box 1527-00606,
Parkfield Place, 3rd Floor,
Westlands, Nairobi, Kenya

+ **Language:** French (preferred) or English

+ **Salutation:** Cher Yves, Fred

+ **Suggested messages**

You could write: 'Itawezekana' (Swahili), 'On va y arriver' (French) or 'Ekosimba' (Lingala), all meaning 'we will get there'. Colleagues at Filimbi suggest the following: 'Fred, Yves, privés de liberté pour avoir exprimé la soif de liberté de toute la jeunesse congolaise. Votre courage nous inspire. (Fred, Yves, deprived of liberty for expressing the thirst for freedom of all Congolese youth. Your courage inspires us.)

+ You can also post photos of yourself with the words #FreeFred #FreeYves on the palms of your hands to the Free Fred Free Yves Facebook page (search for Free Fred Free Yves on Facebook)

Date to remember:

December 15, 2015 is the nine-month anniversary of Fred and Yves' arrests.

CAN I

- ✗ Send a religious card or message?
- ✓ Send an Amnesty card or mention Amnesty?
- ✗ Include my name and address?

Amnesty International

SEND AN APPEAL LETTER:

Call on President Joseph Kabila to order the immediate release of Fred Bauma and Yves Makwambala and drop all charges against them.

Write to: President Joseph Kabila
c/o Individuals at Risk
Amnesty International UK
Human Rights Action Centre
17-25 New Inn Yard
London EC2A 3EA

There is no functional postal service in DRC, so all letters should be sent to our office. We will then send them in bulk by courier.

Salutation: Your Excellency

In your letter: Focus on the violations of the rights of Fred and Yves. Please do not attack or abuse the president. Call on him to release Fred and Yves and urge him to uphold the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly in DRC ahead of the 2016 elections.



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www.amnesty.org.uk/write