

URGENT ACTION

LUCHA ACTIVIST IN INCOMMUNICADO DETENTION

Youth activist **Musasa Tshibanda** remains in incommunicado detention after the release of his fellow activist **Gloria Senga** on 27 December. The authorities did not provide any explanation for the arrest and detention of **Gloria Senga**. They are both members of the youth movement **Lutte pour le Changement (LUCHA)** and went missing on 16 December after meeting with another activist.

Youth activists **Gloria Senga** and **Musasa Tshibanda** met with another activist, in a restaurant in Kinshasa, the capital of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), on the evening of 16 December. After the three separated, **Gloria Senga** and **Musasa Tshibanda** went missing.

Gloria Senga and **Musasa Tshibanda** were detained at Camp Tshatshi, a military detention facility in Kinshasa following their arrest on 16 December. The two activists were on 26 December transferred to the detention facilities of the National Intelligence Agency (Agence National de Reinseignement, ANR).

Gloria Senga was released on 27 December. **Musasa Tshibanda** remains in incommunicado detention.

The two activists are members of the youth movement, **LUCHA**, which has been vocal in calling on President **Joseph Kabila** to leave office on 19 December, the last day of his second, and according to the Constitution, last mandate. Several youth activists were subjected to arbitrary arrests and incommunicado detention ahead of protests or actions calling on the President to step down.

Amnesty International considers **Musasa Tshibanda** a prisoner of conscience and calls for his immediate and unconditional release.

Please write immediately in French or your own language:

- Urging the authorities to immediately and unconditionally release **Musasa Tshibanda**, as he is a prisoner of conscience detained solely for peacefully exercising his human rights;
- Urging the authorities to ensure that **Musasa Tshibanda** has access to his lawyer and family without delay;
- Urging the authorities to ensure that **Musasa Tshibanda** is not subjected to torture and other ill-treatment.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 27 FEBRUARY 2017 TO:

Minister of Justice

Monsieur Alexis Tambwe Mwamba

Ministère de la Justice

228 Avenue de Lemera

BP 3137

Kinshasa-Gombe

DRC

Email: minjustdh@gmail.com

Salutation: Honourable Minister

Minister for human rights

Marie-Ange Mushobekwa

Ministere des droits humains

Place Royal

Kinshasa-Gombe

DRC

Email: mushobekwa.likulia@gmail.com

Salutation: Honourable Minister

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. His Excellency Mr Barnabe Kikaya Bin Karubi, Embassy of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, 45-49 Great Portland Street W1W 7LD, 020 7580 3931, Fax 020 7580 8713, missionrdclondres@gmail.com, www.ambardc-londres.gouv.cd

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the first update of UA 287/16. Further information: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/AFR62/5391/2016/en/>

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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. President Kabila's second and last mandate ended on 19 December, yet elections have not taken place. Following a national dialogue supported by the African Union, plans to hold elections in April 2018 were announced with an extension of President Kabila's mandate until that date. The majority of opposition parties and civil society rejected the outcome of the dialogue. A more inclusive dialogue, headed by the Catholic Church, is currently ongoing.

LUCHA is a youth movement created in Goma, the provincial capital of North Kivu in the DRC, in 2012. The movement is known for its peaceful actions. It organizes 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 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.

Further information on UA: 287/16 Index: AFR 62/5485/2017 Issue Date: 16 January 2017