

URGENT ACTION

LUCHA YOUTH ACTIVIST RELEASED WITHOUT CHARGE

Bienvenu Matumo, a youth activist from the youth movement Lutte pour le Changement (LUCHA) in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), was released from detention on 12 August without any explanation on the motivation behind his arrest and detention.

Bienvenu Matumo, a youth activist from LUCHA, went missing on 8 August at 5pm after he attended a meeting organized by the Youth Parliament of the DRC and other organizations in DRC's capital, Kinshasa. It emerged that he had been detained by Congolese intelligence services (*Agence Nationale de Renseignement, ANR*) when they released him on 12 August.

The ANR has not disclosed the reasons for Bienvenu Matumo's arrest and detention. He was released without charge. Bienvenu Matumo is a close friend and colleague of two prisoners of conscience, Fred Bauma and Yves Makwambala, who were arrested by the ANR on 15 March during a press conference where the platform of a youth movement, FILIMBI, was launched. He regularly visits Fred Bauma and Yves Makwambala in Makala Prison, where they are in custody facing serious criminal charges solely for the peaceful exercise of their rights.

No further action is requested of the UA network. Many thanks to those who sent appeals.

This is the first update of UA 177/15. Further Information: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/AFR62/2261/2015/en/>

Further Information UA: 177/15 Index: AFR 62/2290/2015 Issue Date: 17 August 2015

Name: Bienvenu Matumo

Gender m/f: m

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