

URGENT ACTION

WHEREABOUTS OF LUCHA ACTIVIST UNKNOWN

Bienvenue Matumo, an activist from the youth movement Lutte pour le Changement (LUCHA) in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), has been missing since 8 August. He may have been subjected to enforced disappearance.

Congolese human rights activist **Bienvenue Matumo** has not been seen since he left a discussion organized by the Youth Parliament of the DRC and other organizations on 8 August at 5pm in DRC's capital, Kinshasa. He left the meeting, at the national youth council's office on Swende Boulevard but did not reach home.

Bienvenue Matumo had recently been receiving phone calls from someone who provided confusing information and asked him to meet up. The authorities have not confirmed that Bienvenue Matumo is in their custody.

Bienvenue Matumo is a close friend and colleague of two prisoners of conscience, Fred Bauma and Yves Makwambala, who were arrested by the Congolese intelligence services (*Agence Nationale de Reinseignement*, 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.

Amnesty International is concerned this may follow the pattern of similar cases in which youth activists and human rights defenders have been subjected to enforced disappearance in the DRC before they are released or formally charged.

Please write immediately in French or your own language:

- Expressing concern that Bienvenue Matumo may have been subjected to enforced disappearance and urging the authorities to disclose any information they have on him if he is in their custody;
- Calling on them to ensure that, if he is in custody, he is protected from torture and other ill-treatment and given prompt access to his family, a lawyer of his choosing and any medical attention he may require;
- If he is in custody, urging them to ensure he is released immediately and unconditionally unless he is promptly charged with an internationally recognizable criminal offence.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 23 SEPTEMBER 2015 TO:

Minister of Interior and Security

Professor Evariste Boshab
Ministry of Interior and Security
Avenue Roi Baudouin
Kinshasa-Gombe
RDC

Email: ngomamundulu@gmail.com

Salutation: **Honourable Minister**

General Administrator of the ANR

Monsieur Kalev Mutond
Agence Nationale de Renseignement
Avenue des aviateurs croisement du port
Kinshasa-Gombe
RDC

Salutation: **Dear General**

Administrator

And copies to:

Minister of Justice

Monsieur Alexis Tambwe Mwamba
Ministère de la Justice
228 Avenue de Lemera
BP 3137

Kinshasa-Gombe

RDC

Email: info@minjustice.cd

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:

Name Address 1 Address 2 Address 3 Fax Fax number Email Email address Salutation Salutation

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Bienvenue Matumo obtained his degree from the new National School of Administration (*Ecole Nationale d'Administration*, ENA) in Kinshasa, DRC. He is a member of the Youth Parliament of the DRC (*Parlement des Jeunes de la RDC*), a community of young people intended to consolidate democracy, the rule of law and human rights. The Youth Parliament seeks to build the capacity of young citizens to participate in discussions of national relevance.

Bienvenue Matumo is also an activist with the Congolese youth movement LUCHA. LUCHA member Fred Bauma was arrested in Kinshasa on 15 March when the security forces stormed a press conference held after a workshop on youth civic engagement in political processes in the run-up to the 2016 elections in the DRC.

In January 2015, human rights defender Christopher Ngoyi was handcuffed and arrested by four men in military police uniform. The authorities did not confirm his detention until four days later and held him in secret detention for three weeks. In March, another LUCHA activist was forced into a car by unknown assailants. He was held in an unknown location, questioned, intimidated and released three days later. In April, a person linked to the youth platform FILIMBI was arrested and held at the ANR for three days before he was released, yet the ANR denied that he had been arrested or detained.

Name: Bienvenue Matumo

Gender m/f: M

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