

URGENT ACTION

NINE ARRESTED DURING MEMORIAL DETAINED

Nine people, including two activists from Lutte pour le Changement (LUCHA), Juvini Kombi and Pascal Byumanine, are in detention. They were arrested on 28 November in Goma during a peaceful demonstration in honour of victims of the ongoing killings in the Beni area of Northern Kivu, DRC.

Nine people - **Juvini Kombi, Pascal Byumanine, Innocent Fumbu, Saïdi Wetemwami Heshima, Gervais Semunda Rwamakuba, Nelson Katembo Kalindalo, Jonathan Kambale Muhasa, Osée Kakule Kilala and Jojo Semivumbi** - were arrested by Congolese authorities on 28 November in Goma during a peaceful demonstration organized by LUCHA, a youth movement, in honour of victims of killings in the Beni area. The peaceful protest, which the authorities had been informed of in advance as required by law, was dispersed by the security forces, using tear gas and live bullets.

The nine were transferred from police custody to the office of the Attorney General on 30 November. The general prosecutor on 2 December, signed a provisional arrest warrant prolonging their detention on charges of rebellion, incitement to disobedience, insult to the authorities, belonging to a criminal organisation, assault and destruction. The nine are currently detained at Munzenze central prison, Goma.

Amnesty International considers the nine prisoners of conscience, detained solely for exercising their rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly.

Please write immediately in French, English or your own language:

- Urging the Congolese authorities to drop all charges against the nine immediately and unconditionally;
- Urging them to release the nine immediately and unconditionally;
- Urging them to respect the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly including of LUCHA activists, their sympathisers and supporters;
- Urging the authorities to ensure that the nine are not subjected to any ill-treatment while in detention.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 25 JANUARY 2016 TO:

General Prosecutor at the Court of

Appeal of Goma

Court of Appeal Goma

Rue camp du de Metz

Goma

DRC

Salutation: Dear Prosecutor

Attorney General

Flory Kabange Numbi

Office of the Attorney General

P.O. Box 7016 Kinshasa 1

Kinshasa

DRC

Email: pgr_rdc@yahoo.fr

Salutation: Dear Attorney General

And copies to:

Minister of Justice and Human Rights

Alexis Tambwe Mwanba

Ministry of Justice and Human Rights

P.O Box 3137

Kinshasa/Gombe

DRC

Fax +243 8805521

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

LUCHA is a youth movement that was created in Goma, the provincial capital of North Kivu in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), in 2012. The movement is known for its peaceful actions. They organize sit-ins, demonstrations and other actions to claim their rights and those of the people of DRC.

Earlier this year, four LUCHA activists were given a six months suspended sentence for having participated in a peaceful protest for the release of their colleagues Fred Bauma and Yves Makwambala, who were held in incommunicado detention in Kinshasa at the time. Fred Bauma and Yves Makwambala, considered prisoners of conscience by Amnesty International, remain in detention in Makala prison, Kinshasa.

Name: Juvini Kombi, Pascal Byumanine, Innocent Fumbu, Saïdi Wetemwami Heshima, Gervais Semunda Rwamakuba, Nelson Katembo Kalindalo, Jonathan Kambale Muhasa, Osée Kakule Kilala and Jojo Semivumbi

Gender m/f: male

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