



**Democratic Republic of the Congo – Researched and compiled by the
Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 8 July 2016**

**Is there any information on the treatment of members of APARECO in
the DRC?**

A UK Home Office fact-finding mission report, in a section titled “Treatment of Returnees” (paragraph 4.12) quotes representatives of the Congolese human rights NGO Toges Noires as follows:

“APARECO people are also on the black list, they will be mistreated. If someone is a member of APARECO there are problems since it is an opposition group and the government cannot accept this.” (UK Home Office (November 2012) *Democratic Republic of Congo: Report of a Fact Finding Mission to Kinshasa Conducted Between 18 and 28 June 2012*, p.42)

In a section titled “Alliance Des Patriotes Pour La Refondation Du Congo (Apareco)” (paragraphs 6.01 to 6.08) this report states:

“6.01 [Members of Human Rescue said] The organisation is aware of APARECO which has recently formed an alliance with UDPS and ARP (General Munene).

APARECO numbers a lot of ex Mubutists – the government fears it. Its leader has a lot of information which could be used against the government.

The APARECO leader does not have the resources to look after a clandestine movement in DRC.

One member of APARECO left the group to work for the DRC government.

6.02 [Representatives of Les Amis de Nelson Mandela said] APARECO is known in DRC – Honoré Nganda Nzambo Ko Atumba, the leader of the group is known to have initiated the campaign that Kabila is not Congolese. He is known to be an enemy of the State.

6.03 [Representatives of Renadhoc said] The organisation considers APARECO to be the most deadly enemy of the government. There are APARECO members in DRC but they are here secretly.

6.04 [Representatives of Oeuvres sociales pour le développement (OSD) said that] The organisation is aware of APARECO and its leader – it is a politically active group in Europe. It has nothing in DRC.

The DRC government thinks it cannot have a good relationship with APARECO as they are seen as the enemy – they all want the power.

The leader of APARECO is an expat who was in security - the ANR, he knows a lot of secrets, he knows the origin of the President.

6.05 [A human rights organisation in DRC stated that] The organisation was aware of APARECO.

6.06 [Representatives of Toges Noir said] APARECO people are also on the black list, they will be mistreated. If someone is a member of APARECO there are problems since it is an opposition group and the government cannot accept this. The No.1 of APARECO was the No.1 of security services under Mobutu and has a lot of information about this country and those who run it. APARECO is on Facebook and so is very public.

6.07 [Representatives of the French Embassy said] The Embassy was aware of APARECO – a political movement, but it would not make any difference to the attitude of the DGM to a returnee if they were an APARECO member because the French would not make this information known.

6.08 [Representatives of International Organisation for Migration (IOM), said] It is aware that anti-establishment groups are very active in London – and particularly also in Ethiopia. They had not heard of APARECO.” (ibid, pp.51-52)

See also UK Home Office report which, in a section titled “Annex H – FCO letter of meeting with Kinshasa-based human rights organisation” gives the response of the Executive Director for a Kinshasa-based human rights organisation to the question “Are you aware of APARECO – is it an active political group in the DRC?” as follows:

“The Executive Director is aware of APARECO, and said that they are not authorised to operate here although there are APARECO members in DRC who operate clandestinely. He had no information on the size, structure, policies or leadership of APARECO in DRC.” (UK Home Office (September 2015) *Democratic Republic of Congo: treatment on return*, p.46)

In response to the question “Do you have any evidence that APARECO members have been harassed, detained and/or ill-treated for their activities for the group in the DRC?” the Executive Director is quoted as follows:

“The Executive Director reported that a number of APARECO members were on a recent amnesty list signed by President Kabila which pardoned a number of people who had been arrested due to links with armed groups. On this basis he believed that some APARECO members had been arrested due to their activities for the group in DRC. The Migration Delivery Assistant has seen a copy of the list, but it does not reference the groups to which those pardoned belonged and therefore has not been submitted as evidence.” (ibid, p.46)

A report published by Freedom from Torture, in a section titled “Survivor Profile” (paragraph 1.1. “Political profile”), states:

“Of the women detained for political reasons the largest group (11) were associated with the Movement for the Liberation of Congo (MLC); these

women had been detained a total of 23 times between them. Other named opposition parties that women were affiliated to include the Union for Democracy and Social Progress (UDPS) (five women detained eight times) and the Alliance of Patriots for the Refoundation of the Congo (APARECO) (two women detained four times)". (Freedom from Torture (June 2014) *Rape as torture in the DRC: Sexual violence beyond the conflict zone*, p.27)

A 2009 article from UK newspaper The Guardian states:

"Muambi first came to the attention of the Congolese authorities in January 2005 when he was involved in anti-government protests. He was detained and tortured for a month and then escaped to the UK and claimed asylum. He was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder. He belongs to the human rights group Apareco, whose members risk torture in Congo." (The Guardian (27 May 2009) *Britain sending refused Congo asylum seekers back to threat of torture*)

This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Research and Information Unit within time constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

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