



**Democratic Republic of the Congo – Researched and compiled by the
Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 15 September 2016**

Information relating to the ideology of the prophet Mukungubila.

A report from France 24 states:

“Joseph Mukungubila Mutombo was questioning – and embellishing – his identity long before he shot into the international spotlight on Monday, when intruders disrupted a live TV show, proclaiming to be followers of ‘Gideon Mukungubila’. ‘Gideon’ is just one of several monikers associated with the former soldier-turned Congolese presidential candidate-turned-televangelist-turned-prophet. These include ‘the prophet of the eternal’ or ‘Paul Joseph Mukungubila’ or sometimes simply, ‘prophet Mukungubila’.” (France 24 (30 December 2013) *Who is Congo’s Mukungubila: ‘Prophet’ or coup mastermind?*)

In a paragraph headed “A rebirth timed to enhance a messianic, nationalist appeal” this report states:

“Questions about the identity and intent of Mukungubila have been circulating ever since the former soldier embraced his new persona as a man of God. ‘Who is Paul Mukungubila: God or Christ?’ read an undated communiqué issued by his ‘Ministry of Restoration from Black Africa’. The answer provided by the statement was rambling and disconcerting: ‘Paul Mukungubila is the prophet of God, by whom the creator is speaking to us on this world today on this last stage Christ ministry after the saint land had been profaned by unbelievers.’ [sic]” (ibid)

This paragraph also states:

“‘Gideon Mukungubila is known in Kinshasa as a prophet of God who has always condemned and launched verbal attacks against the government,’ explained Adam Shemisi, a Congolese journalist, in an interview with FRANCE 24. ‘He denounces everyone in power. We wonder how he was able to mobilise this militia that managed to take journalists hostage. ‘ The televangelist’s opposition to Kabila took an overtly political form when he ran for president in the 2006 Congolese election. But as an independent in a race with 33 registered candidates, Mukungubila was not considered a frontrunner.” (ibid)

An Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada response to a request for information on Joseph Mukungubila, in a section titled “Joseph Mukungubila’s Church”, states:

“Sources present Joseph Mukungubila [also called Paul-Joseph Mukungubila Mutombo and Gideon Mukungubila] as a self-proclaimed ‘prophet’. He is also known as the leader of a politico-religious movement, the [translation]

'Ministry of Restoration from Black Africa' (Ministère de la restauration à partir de l'Afrique noire) The headquarters of this movement is located in Lubumbashi [Katanga province, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)]. France 24 – a group of three television channels providing continuous news – reports however that he is a former soldier

According to the online news site Afrik.com, Mukungubila is known as a [translation] 'visionary'. He pledges to free the Congolese people from [translation] 'Rwandan slavery'. On the Ministry of Restoration from Black Africa website, Mukungubila is described as [translation] 'the prophet of the eternal'; his message is 'to announce the Gospel, [and] declare a day of revenge from God,' and his mission is to [translation] 'set things right before the return of the Lord Jesus' (Ministère de la restauration à partir de l'Afrique noire n.d.). Sources describe this church as [translation] 'the church of sacrificers of latter day saints'" (Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (30 April 2014) *COD104863.FE – Democratic Republic of Congo: Joseph Mukungubila's church and the 30 December 2013 attacks, including the individuals involved; treatment of the church members and of Mr. Mukungubila's family by the authorities (2006April 2014)*)

A report from the UN-sponsored Radio Okapi states:

"Pastor Joseph Mukungubila Mutombo has been nicknamed by his congregation as 'Prophet of the Lord'. He heads the 'Church of the Lord Jesus Christ', located mainly in Kinshasa, Lubumbashi, Kolwezi and Kalemie. Unsuccessful candidate in the 2006 presidential election, he presents himself as an opponent of Joseph Kabila's regime. In his media appearances, he regularly denounces attempts to balkanize the DRC and the selling off cheaply and looting of the country's natural resources by its neighbours. On 5 December, Prophet Mukungubila issued an open letter in which he expressed his bitterness about the management of the country and made a speech that was very critical of Rwanda." (Radio Okapi (31 December 2013) *DR Congo security probes alleged instigator of 30 December attacks* (translated from French))

An Agence France Presse report states:

"The identity of the assailants remains unclear, although a television station employee said they had claimed loyalty to pastor Joseph Mukungubila Mutombo, one of the candidates who challenged Kabila in 2006 elections. In an open letter dated December 5, the pastor expressed bitterness at the way the country was being run and showed his hate for neighbouring Rwanda, which once invaded the DR Congo and is accused by the United Nations of backing rebels. He charged that Kabila was too close to Rwanda." (Agence France Presse (30 December 2013) *DR Congo security forces repel attacks, kill at least 70*)

See also Agence France Presse report which states:

"A self-proclaimed 'prophet' and televangelist blamed for violence that killed more than 100 people in DR Congo's two main cities has fled the country, the government said Tuesday. Supporters of Joseph Munkugubila Mutombo, who describes himself as God's 'last envoy to humanity after Jesus Christ and Paul of Tarsus', said it was the army that triggered the deadly unrest in

Kinshasa and Lubumbashi.” (Agence France Presse (31 December 2013) *DR Congo 'prophet' on the run after attacks kill 100*)

A document published on the African Arguments website states:

“The attackers were eventually identified as being followers of a religious leader claiming to be the ‘Prophet of the Eternal’, Paul Joseph Mukungubila. This self-declared spiritual leader lives in Lubumbashi and is a former (rather unsuccessful) presidential candidate (59,228 votes in 2006) whose heavenly messages are heavily mixed with anti-Kabila and anti-Tutsi hate speech.” (African Arguments (7 January 2014) *Congo after M23: the prophet Mukungubila and the death of Colonel Mamadou*)

A report from Al Jazeera states:

“While expressing surprise at the group's ability to organise the attacks, Alex Ntung, a Congolese political analyst, said Mukungubila's group has links to another militant religious congregation headed by the South Africa-based ‘Bishop Elysee’, and to political networks in the European diaspora and Lubumbashi, all of which share the same anti-Rwandan, anti-Kabila ideology.” (Al Jazeera (2 January 2014) *Joseph Kabila: Losing his grip on power?*)

A Voice of America news report states:

“Mukungubila has railed against Kabila's decision to make peace with Tutsi rebels in eastern Congo, saying the president was bowing to pressure from Rwanda. Like many of Kabila's critics, Mukungubila brands the president a Rwandan - a sign of the deep resentment felt by many, particularly in the western capital Kinshasa, to having an eastern-born, foreign-educated leader.” (Voice of America News (31 December 2013) *Congo 'Prophet' Mukungubila says Criticism of Kabila Prompted Violence*)

References:

African Arguments (7 January 2014) *Congo after M23: the prophet Mukungubila and the death of Colonel Mamadou*
<http://africanarguments.org/2014/01/07/congo-after-m23-the-prophet-mukungubila-and-the-death-of-colonel-mamadou-by-kris-berwouts/>
(Accessed 15 September 2015)

Agence France Presse (31 December 2013) *DR Congo 'prophet' on the run after attacks kill 100*
<http://www.lexisnexis.com>
(Accessed 15 September 2015)
This is a subscription database

Agence France Presse (30 December 2013) *DR Congo security forces repel attacks, kill at least 70*
<http://reliefweb.int/report/democratic-republic-congo/dr-congo-security-forces-repel-attacks-dozens-dead>
(Accessed 15 September 2015)

Al Jazeera (2 January 2014) *Joseph Kabila: Losing his grip on power?*
<http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2014/01/joseph-kabila-losing-his-grip-power-2014128942918663.html>
(Accessed 15 September 2015)

France 24 (30 December 2013) *Who is Congo's Mukungubila: 'Prophet' or coup mastermind?*
<http://www.france24.com/en/20131230-congo-mukungubila-profile-prophet-pastor>
(Accessed 15 September 2015)

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (30 April 2014) *COD104863.FE – Democratic Republic of Congo: Joseph Mukungubila's church and the 30 December 2013 attacks, including the individuals involved; treatment of the church members and of Mr. Mukungubila's family by the authorities (2006April 2014)*
<http://www.irb-cisr.gc.ca/Eng/ResRec/RirRdi/Pages/index.aspx?doc=456536&pls=1>
(Accessed 15 September 2015)

Radio Okapi (31 December 2013) *DRCongo security probes alleged instigator of 30 December attacks* (translated from French)
<https://monitoring.bbc.co.uk/#/product/80247905>
(Accessed 15 September 2015)
This is a subscription database

Voice of America News (31 December 2013) *Congo 'Prophet' Mukungubila says Criticism of Kabila Prompted Violence*
<http://www.voanews.com/a/reu-congo-prophet-says-criticism-of-kabila-prompted-violence/1820685.html>
(Accessed 15 September 2015)

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.

Sources Consulted:

BBC Monitoring
European Country of Origin Information Network
Google
Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada
Lexis Nexis
Refugee Documentation Centre Query Database
UNHCR Refworld