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Information on the Church of Paul Joseph Mukungubila Mutombo/Gideon Mukungubila including an attack/disturbance on 30 December 2013

Radio France International in July 2014 states:

“Nothing new is known on the fate of Joseph Mukungubila, the DRC religious leader, who is currently living in exile in South Africa. DR Congo is demanding for his immediate extradition because he is accused of using force to hold certain strategic installations in the capital on 30 December 2013” (*Radio France International* (16 July 2014) *Fate of DR Congo religious leader Joseph Mukungubila unknown - French radio*).

In December 2013 *Business Monitor International* notes:

“Paul Joseph Mukungubila - whose current whereabouts are unknown - is an obscure religious leader based in Lubumbashi, the capital of mineral-rich Katanga province. Formerly the leader of an Evangelical Christian church, he describes himself as a 'prophet of the eternal' and now heads the so-called *Ministère de la Restauration à Partir de l'Afrique Noire*” (*Business Monitor International* (31 December 2013) *Attempted Coup Underlines Political Fragility*).

A report issued in December 2013 by *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” (*Radio Okapi* (31 December 2013) *DR Congo security probes alleged instigator of 30 December attacks*).

Dow Jones in December 2013 points out that:

“...Mukungubila operates a number of churches in Kinshasa, and in several towns across the copper and cobalt mining heartlands of Katanga province, around 1,500 miles south west of Kinshasa” (*Dow Jones* (31 December 2013) *Congo Clashes Death Toll Reaches 100*).

In January 2014 *Radio Okapi* notes:

“Sixty alleged followers of Prophet Paul Mukungubila accused of attacking President Joseph Kabila's residence and fighting the military at the residence of their prophet have been transferred to the Lubumbashi court martial” (*Radio Okapi* (8 January 2014) *DR Congo to court martial 60 suspects charged with attacking state installations*).

In January 2014 the *Federal Office for Migration and Asylum/Germany* notes:

“In the morning of 30 December 2013 several hundred armed followers of the self-proclaimed prophet Paul Joseph Mukungubila attacked in Congo's capital Kinshasa

the headquarters of the public TV station RTNC, the international airport Ndjili, the military base "Camp Tshatshi" (military headquarters) as well as the President's office "Palais de Marbre". In addition, they occupied in Kindu, capital of the eastern province of Maniema, the airport for a short period of time. There was also some fighting between Mukungubila's followers and the security forces in the vicinity of his residency in Lubumbashi, the capital of the southern province of Katanga. After a few hours the security forces had put an end to the uprising. According to government information 150 aggressors were arrested and 92 killed (52 in Kinshasa, 40 in Lubumbashi)" (Federal Office for Migration and Asylum/Germany (7 January 2014) *Information Centre Asylum and Migration Briefing Notes*, p.4).

In May 2014 *Agence France Presse* notes that:

"More than 300 people, mostly civilians, have been killed in the government's retaliation for attacks blamed on a self-proclaimed "prophet" in the Democratic Republic of Congo in December, a rights group said Thursday. The government has previously denied that any citizens have been killed in its hunt for the perpetrators of coordinated December 30 attacks it blames on pastor and former presidential candidate Joseph Mukungubila Mutombo, known by his followers as "the Eternal Prophet"" (Agence France Presse (22 May 2014) *Around 300 killed in DR Congo crackdown on rebel assault*).

This report also states:

"On December 30, assailants stormed the state television station, international airport and military headquarters in Kinshasa. Attacks were also reported in Lubumbashi and Kolwezi in the vast southeastern region of Katanga, and in Kindu in the eastern region of Maniema...The attackers claimed loyalty to Mukungubila, who challenged President Joseph Kabila in 2006 elections and styled himself as the head of a sect known as the "Ministry for the Restoration of Black Africa", or MRAN" (ibid).

In March 2014 a report issued by the *United Nations Security Council* states:

"A number of serious security incidents exacerbated the fragile political and security environment in the country. On 30 December 2013, the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Forces armées de la République démocratique du Congo-FARDC) repelled coordinated attacks launched by unidentified armed assailants in the capital, Kinshasa, and in Lubumbashi and Kolwezi in Katanga Province, and in Kindu in Maniema Province. In Kinshasa, three separate groups simultaneously attacked the Congolese armed forces' headquarters/Ministry of Defence compound, the National Radio and N'Djili international airport. In Kindu, the assailants attacked the airport, while in Lubumbashi, violent clashes between the army and unknown gunmen took place on the outskirts of the city. As a result of the attacks, 103 people, including eight Congolese armed forces soldiers, were reportedly killed. These serious incidents appeared to be linked to followers of a self-proclaimed prophet and outspoken opponent of the Government, Joseph Mukungubila" (UN Security Council (5 March 2014) *Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo*, S/2014/157, pp.1-2).

BBC News in December 2013 points out that:

"...Gideon is the nickname used for Paul Joseph Mukungubila by his followers. He ran unsuccessfully for president in 2006. Mr Mukungubila - a Christian leader and

self-proclaimed prophet - told the BBC the violence was carried out by his supporters in response to government harassment. He denied it was an attempted coup” (BBC News (30 December 2013) *DR Congo ‘repulses’ TV, airport and army base attacks*).

In December 2013 a report released by *Reuters* states:

“Government officials said the Kinshasa assault was carried out by untrained youths in civilian clothes with aged military equipment and appeared to be more a political statement than an attempt to seize power in the riverside city of more than 9 million people” (Reuters (30 December 2013) *Congo’s army repels attacks in Kinshasa, dozens killed*).

In January 2014 the *International Crisis Group* notes:

“In the Democratic Republic of the Congo supporters of pastor Gideon Mukungubila, a former presidential hopeful, attacked state and military buildings in Kinshasa with the purported aim of ousting President Kabila. The attempted coup was rapidly quashed by security forces, with over 40 attackers reportedly killed and scores arrested” (International Crisis Group (2 January 2014) *CrisisWatch N°125*).

In May 2015 *Radio Okapi* states:

“The trial of the followers of Prophet Mukungubila [an alleged coup plotting Pastor currently exiled in South Africa] has started this Thursday 30 April before the Kinshasa Gombe Garrison’s military court. Twenty of the prophet’s disciples appeared in court at the first introductory hearing at Ndolo military prison” (Radio Okapi (1 May 2015) *Trial of suspected DR Congo coup plotters begins*).

This document also notes:

“It will be remembered that on 30 December 2013, young men entered premises of the DR Congo’s National Radio and Television [RTNC/ state owned media outlet] and abducted some journalists live on television, after having disarmed soldiers who were guarding them [premises]. Kinshasa was in turmoil. On the same day, a second group attacked Colonel Tshatshi military camp in Kinshasa but was quickly put under control by republican guard troops. A third group attempted to takeover Ndjili international airport but in vain. Similar attacks were simultaneously registered in Lubumbashi [Katanga Province /southeastern DR Congo] and in Kindu [Maniema province]. A total of 103 people, amongst whom 94 identified as adepts of Prophet Mukungubila, were killed in the attacks, said government sources” (ibid).

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This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre 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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