

URGENT ACTION

ACTIVIST AND HIS LAWYER RELEASED WITHOUT CHARGE

Jean-Marie Kalonji, an activist with the youth movement *Quatrieme voie/ il est temps*, and his colleague and lawyer **Sylva Mbikayi** were released without charge on 17 July. The two had been held in incommunicado detention by military intelligence agents since 23 June.

Jean-Marie Kalonji and **Sylva Mbikayi** were released without charge on 17 July after 24 days in incommunicado detention at a military facility.

Jean-Marie Kalonji was arrested on 23 June when he was stopped by soldiers at an exit checkpoint of a military camp in Kinshasa. When he explained that he could not show his passport as it was with an embassy where he had applied for a visa, the soldiers started questioning his nationality and searched his bag which contained flyers for a Lumumba scholarship programme set up by the youth movement *Quatrieme Voie/ il est temps* (the fourth way/ it is time). Sylva Mbikayi was arrested when he arrived at the military camp to assist Jean-Marie Kalonji.

Jean-Marie Kalonji is the coordinator of the youth movement *Quatrieme voie/ il est temps*, which aims to defend the rights of the Congolese youth and has campaigned for peace and democracy in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Sylva Mbikayi is a lawyer who supports the youth movement.

No further action is requested of the UA network. Many thanks to those who sent appeals.

This is the first update of UA 162/17. Further information: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr62/6635/2017/en/>

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