

URGENT ACTION

TWO LUCHA YOUTH ACTIVISTS MISSING

Youth activists **Gloria Senga** and **Musasa Tshibanda** went missing on the evening of 16 December after they met with another youth activist in Kinshasa. **Gloria Senga** and **Musasa Tshibanda** are members of the youth movement **Lutte pour le Changement (LUCHA)**.

On the evening of 16 December youth activists **Gloria Senga** and **Musasa Tshibanda** met with another activist in a restaurant in Kinshasa, the capital of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). After the three separated, Gloria Senga and Musasa Tshibanda went missing.

Gloria Senga and Musasa Tshibanda are members of the youth movement **Lutte pour le Changement (LUCHA)**. LUCHA has been vocal in calling on President Joseph Kabila to leave office on 19 December, the last day of his second, and according to the Constitution, last mandate. Several youth activists have been subjected to arbitrary arrests and incommunicado detention ahead of protests or actions calling on the President to step down.

The whereabouts of Gloria Senga and Musasa Tshibanda remain unknown and the authorities have not confirmed their arrests.

Amnesty International is concerned that the two activists may have been subjected to enforced disappearance.

Please write immediately in French or your own language:

- Expressing concern that Gloria Senga and Musasa Tshibanda may have been subjected to enforced disappearance and urging the authorities to immediately disclose their whereabouts if they are in their custody;
- Calling on them to ensure that, if Gloria Senga and Musasa Tshibanda are in custody, they are protected from torture and other ill-treatment and given prompt access to their families, lawyers and any medical attention they may require pending their immediate and unconditional release;
- Calling on the authorities to undertake urgent measures to promptly identify their whereabouts and inform their family members of any measures they have undertaken if they are not in custody.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 30 JANUARY 2017 TO:

Minister of Justice

Monsieur Alexis Tambwe Mwamba

Ministère de la Justice

228 Avenue de Lemera

BP 3137

Kinshasa-Gombe

DRC

Email: minjustdh@gmail.com

Salutation: Honourable Minister

Minister of Interior and Security

Professor Evariste Boshab

Ministry of Interior and Security

Avenue Roi Baudouin

Kinshasa-Gombe

DRC

Email: ngomamundulu@gmail.com

Salutation: Honourable Minister

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. His Excellency Mr Barnabe Kikaya Bin Karubi, Embassy of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, 45-49 Great Portland Street W1W 7LD, 020 7580 3931, Fax 020 7580 8713, missionrdclondres@gmail.com, www.ambardc-londres.gouv.cd

Please check with your Section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

DRC's President Joseph Kabila has been in office since 2001 and was declared winner of the 2006 and 2011 elections. The Congolese Constitution limits a president to two consecutive terms. President Kabila's second and last mandate ended on 19 December, yet elections have not taken place. Following a national dialogue supported by the African Union, plans for elections were announced for April 2018 with an extension of President Kabila's mandate until that date. The majority of opposition parties and civil society rejected the outcome of the dialogue. A more inclusive dialogue, headed by the Catholic Church, is currently ongoing.

LUCHA is a youth movement created in Goma, the provincial capital of North Kivu in the DRC, in 2012. The movement is known for its peaceful actions. It organizes sit-ins, demonstrations and other actions to claim their rights and those of the people of DRC. They have continuously called for the organization of elections within constitutional deadlines and for respect of the presidential term limits outlined in DRC's Constitution.

The authorities have accused LUCHA of being a criminal movement, set up with the aim of disturbing public order.

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