

# Human Rights Watch

## Torture, Former Combatants, Political Prisoners, Terror Suspects, & Terrorists

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2016/11/16/dr-congo-political-prisoners-detention>

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**The following individuals were arrested in the Democratic Republic of the Congo since early 2015. Most had spoken out against attempts to extend President Joseph Kabilas term in office or participated in peaceful demonstrations or political activities. Others were suspected of having links with political opposition leaders. These individuals are all still in custody.**

#### **Detained in Kinshasa:**

*The following seven people were arrested on August 7, 2016 in Kinshasa at the home of Norbert Luyeye, president of the opposition political party Union of Republicans (Union des Rpublicains, UR). On August 4, Luyeye had declared at his party headquarters that a legal vacuum would ensue if the National Independent Electoral Committee (CENI) failed to convoke election in September. He also announced a popular meeting in Kinshasas Ndjili neighborhood on September 4 to raise awareness among the population and prepare for the demonstrations scheduled to begin on September 19. They are all being held by the military intelligence services in Kinshasa without charge and without access to their families or a lawyer:*

*At least a dozen people were arrested on September 15 and 16, 2016 in Kinshasa and held incommunicado by the intelligence services after having participated in an awareness campaign organized by the Union of Congolese Youth for Change (Union des Jeunes Congolais pour le Changement, UJCC), a youth platform for debate and action focused on non-violence, peace and respect of the constitution. While the others were later released, the organizations president remains in detention:*

*The following people were arrested just before or immediately after the Congolese Justice Minister announced on May 4, 2016, the start of an investigation into Mose Katumbi, the former Katanga governor and an opposition leader and presidential candidate, for having allegedly recruited mercenaries [including] several American ex-servicemen. These allegations appear to have been politically motivated and no credible proof has been presented to date. These individuals have all been accused of maintaining links with Katumbi or being involved in the alleged recruiting of mercenaries, and have been charged with endangering state security:*

*The following individuals, members of the opposition party National Union of Congolese Federalists (Union Nationale des Fdralistes du Congo, UNAFEC), were arrested in Lubumbashi on July 16, 2016. Initially held by intelligence services in Lubumbashi, they were transferred on August 9 to the intelligence services in Kinshasa where they are still held incommunicado, without charges and without access to their families or to a lawyer:*

*The following people were arrested in the context of protests organized the week of September 19 against the electoral commissions failure to convoke presidential elections three months before the end of President Kabilas mandate, as called for by the constitution:*

#### **Detained in Lubumbashi:**

#### **Detained in Goma:**

*Six activists of the youth movement Struggle for Change (LUCHA) were arrested on October 24, 2016 in Goma while mobilizing students of a local university to participate in demonstrations and a general strike (or ville morte) planned for October 26 and 27. Three of them were released on October 29 while the three others were transferred to the central prison in Goma. During a press conference on October 30, a police spokesperson said they had attempted disruption of public order. They remain in detention:*

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