

DE CONGO (60)

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NATIONS UNIES
HAUT COMMISSARIAT
POUR LES REFUGIES



UNITED NATIONS
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FOR REFUGEES

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FN-MISSIONEN GENEVE		
BILAG		
04 SEP. 1997		
17.	DAN.	1.

Case Postale 2800
CH-1211 Genève 2 Dépôt

1 September 1997

Sir,

Re: Asylum seekers from the Democratic Republic of Congo

We refer to your letter of 24 July 1997 on the above matter. While we are waiting for a report to be written by an independent expert, we would like to share with you the following comments based on information gathered from here and there.

The security situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo in general and in Kinshasa in particular is still confused and tense. Extra-judicial killings of both civilians and ex-FAZ/ex-FAR soldiers have been reported. Also ADFL armed people still continue harassing civilians, especially in residential areas of Kinshasa, by taking away luxurious private and UN system cars, by looting comfortable houses, by looking for and arresting high ranked beneficiaries, clients and officials of the former regime.

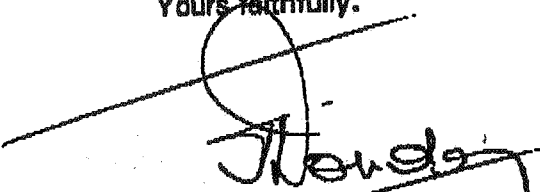
Apart from ADFL political/armed movement, no other party is allowed to have political activities as all other political parties have been banned as from May 1997, as soon as ADFL came into power. Meanwhile opposition newspapers continue to be active, critical and fault-finding without any obvious hindrance. However, private media (TV and Radio) and properties (buildings, factories etc...) have been confiscated on behalf of ADFL leaders. Human rights violations and abuses (rapes, arbitrary detentions, abductions etc...) are reportedly more frequent today than during the Mobutu regime.

At the moment, those Zaireans who were occupying high social, political, economic and military positions within Mobutu's regime, are obviously at special risk as ADFL soldiers are looking for and putting them in detention or house-arrest pending a possible trial which would take place once the present judicial system is completely reorganised. All former FAZ soldiers have been or will be sent to Kitona naval base for a two-week ADFL political re-education session. The first session which started early July 1997 is yet to be completed. Hence at the end of August 1997 nobody is back yet to Kinshasa to be integrated into ADFL army.

Mr Ole Mikkelsen
Deputy Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of Denmark
56 Rue de Moillebeau
Geneva

In fact, nobody knows when and how they would be incorporated into the ADFL army. Also it is quite difficult today to know what would happen to those who were persecuted for political reasons by the Mobutu regime, irrespective of their political or ethnic membership. Indeed, apart from those who are ADFL members/sympathisers since the beginning of the "Liberation" war, Mr. Kabila's ministers, collaborators and entourage have been selected on individual merits basis; hence persons belonging to any banned political party could not be assured re-entry to the Democratic Republic of Congo without any risk.

Yours faithfully.



F-X Doudou Kladila
Senior Regional Legal Adviser
CEWA