

**OPEN LETTER TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO
CONCERNING THE **ARBITRARY DETENTION** OF FRED BAUMA AND YVES MAKWAMBALA**

Canada | September 2015

Dear Attorney General Flory Kabange Numbi,

We, the undersigned, call upon you to immediately and unconditionally release Fred Bauma and Yves Makwambala who were unlawfully arrested on March 15 as they participated in a peaceful workshop promoting youth engagement in the democratic and electoral processes.

On April 28, 2015, the special Commission of the Congo's National Assembly found no evidence against these Fred Bauma and Yves Makwambala and recommended that you release them. And yet, in spite of the absence of evidence, these young pro-democracy activists remain in Makala prison in Kinshasa.

We join the United Nations, the governments of the United Kingdom and European Union, and the many Congolese and international organization in expressing our deep concern about the growing pattern of arbitrary arrest and detention in the DR Congo. Under Congolese law, citizens have the right to freedom of expression, and freedom to assemble and demonstrate peacefully.

We are concerned that this silencing of diverse voices today will undermine the ability of the Congo to hold credible, free and fair federal and presidential elections next year.

Canada supports the individual human rights of Fred Bauma and Yves Makwambal. We also have a strong interest in a stable democracy in the DR Congo for the benefit of all Congolese citizens. A stable democracy is the foundation for peace, economic stability and foreign investment.

Cc:

His Excellency President Joseph Kabila

His Excellency Prime Minister Augustin Matata Ponyo

The Honourable Aubin Minaku, President of the Parliamentary National Assembly

Ambassador Ginette Martin, Canada's Ambassador to the DR Congo

The Honourable Alexis Tambwe Mwanba, Minister of Justice and Human Rights

LIST OF SIGNATORIES:

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Joseph Kabila, le Président de la République Démocratique du Congo
Augustin Matata Ponyo, Premier ministre de la République Démocratique du Congo
L'honorable Aubin Minaku, President of the Parliamentary National Assembly
Ambassador Ginette Martin, Canada's Ambassador to the DR Congo
Monsieur Flory Kabange Numbi, Attorney General