

Your Excellency;

I am writing to express my grave concern on the five members of the citizen movement Filimbi, Grâce Tshiunza, Mino Bopomi, Cedric Kalonji, Carbone Beni and Palmer Kabeya, who have been brought to court on 19 June in Kinshasa and been charged with “insulting the Head of State” and “inciting civil disobedience”. They risk up to three years in prison if found guilty.

I am urging the Congolese authorities to release Grâce Tshiunza, Mino Bopomi, Cedric Kalonji, Carbone Ben and Palmer Kabeya immediately and unconditionally. I am also calling on them to ensure that, pending their release, the five activists are not subjected to torture and other ill-treatment while in detention.

Your attention on this matter would be highly appreciated.

Sincerely,