

President Joseph Kabila
Cabinet du President de la République
Palais de la Nation
Avenue De Lemera
KINSHASA-GOMBE
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Your Excellency,

I am writing on behalf of human rights defenders Yves Makwambala and Fred Bauma who were arrested on 15 March 2015 and are facing charges of 'treason, attempted coup and an attempt to take the life of the Head of State'. If convicted, they could face the death penalty.

There is no viable evidence against them, and I believe their charges are politically motivated as they organized an event that encouraged young people to hold the regime to account.

I therefor call on you to drop all charges against Yves Makwambala and Fred Bauma and to immediately and unconditionally release them as they are being detained solely for peacefully exercising their rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association.

I further urge you to ensure that the two men are not tortured or otherwise ill-treated and have regular access to their families.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

I am kindly awaiting your reply.

Yours sincerely,