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Democratic Republic of Congo: Arbitrary detention of Anne-Marie Mabo Elumba

On 6 June 2020, woman human rights defender **Anne-Marie Mabo Elumba** was arbitrarily arrested in Lubumbashi, in Haut-Katanga province whilst peacefully protesting. She is currently detained in Kasapa central prison in Lubumbashi.

[Anne-Marie Mabo Elumba](#) is a human rights defender and a member of the organisation Nouvelle Dynamique Syndicale (*New Trade Union Dynamics - NDS*). NDS is a trade union organization promoting workers' rights in the DRC.

On 6 June 2020, Anne-Marie Mabo Elumba was arrested by police whilst participating in a peaceful demonstration in Lubumbashi, organised by NDS. The demonstration was organised in protest against a recent decision by the Attorney General Basil Lumande, in favour of a former NDS member who had been falsely collecting membership fees for the group, from companies where some NDS members worked, despite no longer being affiliated with the group. Once the march reached the Court of Lubumbashi, Anne-Marie Elumba was arrested by judicial police officers on the grounds that the message on the sign she was holding undermined the honour of the Attorney General, which would constitute a contempt of authority offence.

On 8 June 2020, the defender was transferred to Kasapa central prison, after being held in a cell in the Court of Lubumbashi since her arrest. The defender has not yet appeared before a judge, nor has she been informed of the charges against her.

Front Line Defenders is seriously concerned by the arbitrary detention of Anne-Marie Mabo Elumba as it believes it is in reprisal for exercising freedom of expression and peaceful assembly.

Front Line Defenders urges the authorities in the DRC to:

1. Immediately and unconditionally release Anne-Marie Mabo Elumba, and cease all further harassment towards her, as Front Line Defenders believes that she was arbitrarily arrested and currently detained as a result of her peaceful and legitimate human rights activities;
2. Ensure that the treatment of Anne-Marie Mabo Elumba while in detention, adheres to the conditions set out in the 'Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment', adopted by UN General Assembly resolution 43/173 of 9 December 1988;
3. Guarantee in all circumstances that all human rights defenders in DRC are able to carry out their legitimate human rights activities without fear of reprisals and free of all restrictions, including judicial harassment.