

## STOP RETURNS TO DANGER - SUPPORT JEAN-MICHEL

We, the undersigned urge our elected Members to sign EDM 814 and use every means possible to stop the removal of Jean Michel Bomvoy on Kenyan Airways flight KQ2101 at 19.00 hours on Monday 9th March.

Jean Michel Bomvoy fled the Democratic Republic of the Congo in March 2005 because of political problems.

He had been arrested and tortured so severely by members of the National Intelligence Agency that they feared he might die in their hands and they transferred him to a hospital. The medical report from the hospital states clearly his injuries were a result of torture. Weeks later he returned to work as a liaison officer with the UN Mission in the Congo until he was warned by a friend in the security forces that he was about to be arrested again. He fled the country, flying to the UK, where he asked for asylum.

Here in the UK he has been a very active member in the local community. He is a member of the Tees Valley World Drummers, who have played at services and events in towns, in churches and schools all over the North East and North Yorkshire, including the inauguration of the Mayoress of Stockton. On a political level he has also been involved in broadcasts about the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The regime of President Kabila stands accused in the Human Rights Watch report of Nov. 2008 of the systematic killing of 500 members of the opposition and the imprisonment, rape and torture of hundreds of others in Kinshasa and Western Congo. If the DVDs Jean Michel appears in find their way back to the Congo, he will be targeted.

On 26th Feb 2007, Willy Mvemba and his family; assured by UK Border Agency it would be safe, were returned to Kinshasa. He was arrested, tortured and left for dead. He remains in hiding.

Elysee Mvovo and her children were removed to Kinshasa on 8th February 2009. She was immediately arrested.

Jean Michel's wife and children have also had to flee the country and live in precarious conditions. The eldest of his twin sons, who had remained in Kinshasa, was shot dead in 2007, when soldiers went to their home to see if Jean Michel had returned. In spite of these great sadnesses and trials, Jean Michel's faith remains strong. He takes his duties as a father very seriously and speaks to the children he loves and misses so much to encourage and counsel them. He was so proud when his remaining twin son was accepted to study medicine, though how to maintain his children in education has been a constant source of worry to him. He has been a great support to many of the Congolese community here and is loved by the children. Jean Michel had been receiving counselling from the Medical Foundation for the Care of the Victims of Torture.

We ask that Jean Michel's removal on March 9th 2009, on Kenya Airways flight 101 be stopped and that DVDs submitted to his lawyer be considered.

Signed

Date

Address