Democratic Republic of Congo: Current situation of the Unified Lumumbist Party, including the treatment of its members by the authorities (2003-2005)

Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board, Ottawa

At the end of June 2003, members of the Unified Lumumbist Party (Parti lumumbiste unifié, PALU) did not agree with the other members of the political opposition on the appointment process of representatives to the new Transitional Government (United Nations 7 Nov. 2003). Therefore, the PALU is not represented in the Transitional Government (ibid.). According to a survey published by Le Potentiel, Kinshasans [translation] "are disappointed about the absence [of the Union for Democracy and Social Progress (Union pour la démocratie et le progrès social, UDPS)] and of the Lumumbist Party in the transition" (RFI 14 July 2003).

At the beginning of 2005, the PALU proposed an election calendar to remind the government that the Constitution allows for a transition period of only 24 months (Deboutcongolais.info 14 Feb. 2005). The UDPS and the PALU insisted that general elections be held on 30 June 2005 (AFP 14 Feb. 2005; see also Deboutcongolais.info 14 Feb. 2005), which they consider to be the end of the transition (AFP 14 Feb. 2005). However, it should be noted that the transition agreement [translation] "establishes that general elections be held in June 2005, but allows for a six-month postponement that may be renewed once" (ibid.).

The African Association for the Defense of Human Rights (Association africaine de défense des droits de l'homme, ASADHO) reported that, in May 2004, 19 members of a new political movement regrouping various opposition political parties, including the PALU and the UDPS, were arrested by the police when they tried to submit a memorandum to the office of the United Nations Mission to the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUC) (ASADHO 26 May 2004). According to information from ASADHO, members of the movement called the Coordination of the Congolese People (Coordination du peuple congolais) were [translation] "assaulted and battered" as the police took them to [translation] "unknown locations and . . . various jails, in particular the one at Camp Lufungula" (ibid.). No additional information on the treatment of members of the PALU could be found among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate.

This Response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Research Directorate within time constraints. This Response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim for refugee protection. Please find below the list of additional sources consulted in researching this Information Request.

30 March 2005
References

Agence France-Presse (AFP). 14 February 2005. "RDC : 'Qu'il pleuve ou qu'il neige, les élections auront lieu'." (AFP bulletin)


Additional Sources Consulted

Publications: Africa Confidential, Africa Research Bulletin, Jeune Afrique/L'Intelligent,


One oral source did not respond to an information request within the time constraints.


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