

Right of reply request by MP Clément Kanku's lawyer

Former minister Clément Kanku's defence attorney contacted RFI after the publication of its investigation requesting several corrections or clarifications to the "DRC: Violence in Kasai" investigation published by RFI.

After verification with the translator, three of the requested changes were taken into account. They concern the translation of the second conversation, published by RFI, of Clément Kanku with a journalist allegedly close to the militia Kamwina Nsapu, Constantin Tshiboko.

Clément Kanku's defence attorney also asserts that these conversations were not the government's telephone wiretap conversations but recordings of conversations made by the journalist himself that were seized after his arrest on 9 August 2016, the day after the attack of Tshimbulu. Counsel also insists that Constantin Tshiboko was in Tshikula at the time of the events on 8 August 2016. He was reportedly released in the days following his arrest without any charges against him.

These recorded conversations are the subject of legal proceedings in the Democratic Republic of Congo against MP and former minister Clément Kanku.

First corrections requested by Counsel Tshibuabua, Clément Kanku's lawyer

5s Constantin Tshiboko: They have set fire to Tshimbulu

10s-11s Clément Kanku: Good, let them burn everything

12s Constantin Tshiboko: Right now, they're burning the CENI's office

18s-19s Clément Kanku: But that's what he had promised them

22-23s Clément Kanku: But he had promised them this, and so he is truthful to his promise

25-28s Constantin Tshiboko: yes, things are still proceeding. They're on their way to open the gates of the Tshimbulu and Dibaya prisons

29s Clément Kanku: It's a good thing

Second corrections requested by Ms Tshibuabua, Clément Kanku's lawyer

3-9s Constantin Tshiboko: I have called you to inform you that they have already completed the operation in all the offices. They're now opening the prison

11-17s Constantin Tshiboko: People have got out of the prison

19-22s Constantin Tshiboko: They have killed 6 soldiers and the others have killed two Kamwina Nsapu kids

24-32s Constantin Tshiboko: They killed the Colonel's bodyguard. It sounds like the colonel is inside his house, and they want to make sure that the colonel dies inside his house

45-50s Clément Kanku: Kande will realise what he's done

1'09 Clément Kanku: Let them rejoice, because for them, they believe they're doing a good job

1'13-1'21 Constantin Tshiboko: It's difficult to keep you informed because we have ran out of phone credit, because here in Tshikula, there is no place where I can find phone credit so that I can keep you informed.

Change made by the RFI translator to the second recording

Constantin: Hello Honourable

Honourable: Yes, Constantin, you called me

Constantin: I have called you to inform you that they have already completed the destruction of all the offices. Just now, they've opened the gates of the prison.

Honourable: hum

Constantin: The **people, the brave** ones have gotten out of the prison. Now, they have already killed six police officers.

Honourable: hum

Constantin: And the others have killed six kids from the Kamwina Nsapu militia

Honourable: hum

Constantin: The Colonel's bodyguard has just been executed. It seems that the Colonel himself might still be in his house. That is why the militiamen would like to set it on fire in order to burn him alive.

Honourable: hum

Constantin: This is the operation that's just been carried out

Honourable: The bodyguard was killed?

Constantin: What?

Honourable: Have they killed the bodyguard?

Constantin: Yes, they've killed the bodyguard, he is no more. They ended his life with blows with a stick. That is how they killed the first, then the second. Now they want to set the house on fire.

Honourable: And so, the petrol... (Voices mix up) **Let Kande be happy about the great job done!**

Constantin: Yeah? (What?)

Honourable: What are you saying?

Constantin: They have no more petrol. They took some petrol by force from fuel sellers to complete the operation. But, Kabila has been playing us, chief. Is not it true that what he said in Uganda is humiliating for us?

Honourable: What did he say? How?

Constantin: What he said, isn't it humiliating for us?

Honourable: Ah, they're happy to be doing such things

Constantin: hum

Constantin: We do not know how to give you information for lack of phone credit. Here in **Tshikula**, there is not a single shop that has phone credit. This is why I have such difficulties to keep you regularly informed.

Honourable: OK, we will see about that. Thank you

Constantin: Thank you, honourable

