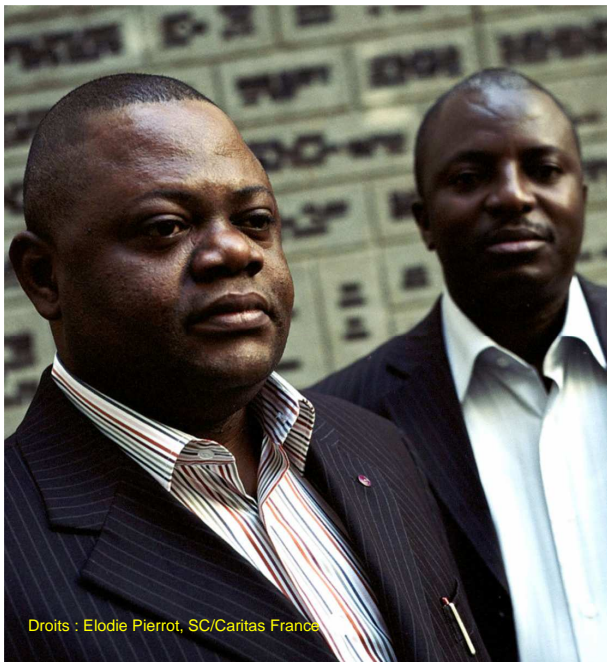


## Two Congolese anti-corruption activists prevented by their government from taking part in the World Social Forum

Brice Mackosso (Justice and Peace Commission) and Christian Mounzéo (Rencontre pour la Paix et des Droits de l'Homme), coordinators of the Congolese branch of the international "Publish What You Pay coalition" were arrested in Congo Brazzaville on January 15 as they attempted to board a plane to Nairobi.

In April 2006 the two men were detained for three weeks on trumped up charges and ever since have been subjected to judicial harassment and violations of their human rights. In a show trial which concluded in December 2006, they received a suspended sentence of 12 months and a fine of \$600 each.

Although legally there should be no restrictions on their movements, the two activists were prevented by the police from travelling to Nairobi where they were due to speak about their fight to ensure Congo's oil wealth is used for poverty reduction and development. Since Monday, neither the police nor the judicial authorities will take responsibility for lifting the illegal travel ban.



**Congo is the fifth largest oil producer in Sub-Saharan Africa. Since** the oil price hike the country receives several billion dollars in revenues annually but **more than 70% of the population lives under the poverty line** and provision of basic services (potable water, health, education) is extremely poor and getting worse.

In June 2004, Congo joined the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), but has not implemented the minimum requirement for local civil society participation: Brice Mackosso and Christian Mounzéo have been nominated to the tripartite national stakeholder committee (government, civil society and companies) intended to oversee the initiative but their nomination is being blocked.

**By their campaigning work and commitment to fighting against the endemic corruption in Congo, the two men are clearly a thorn in the side of the corrupt elites which control Congo's oil wealth and divert it for their own benefit.**

### **Support Christian and Brice's struggle :**

**Please sign the petition to the President of Congo Brazzaville M. Sassou N'Gusso. By contacting the representations of the Congolese authorities in your country and asking them to put an end to the judicial harassment of the two activists.**

Nairobi, 19 January 2007