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**Reaction to the arrest of Matthieu Ngudjolo Chui” Club des Amis du droit du Congo
(Kinshasa) Press Release, 7 February 2008**

Reaction to the arrest of Matthieu Ngudjolo Chui (alleged former leader of the National Integrationist Front (FNI) and currently a Colonel in the National Army of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo)

It is with joy that the Club des Amis du droit du Congo has learned of the arrest of Matthieu Ngudjolo Chui, alleged leader of the National Integrationist Front (FNI) and the FRPI (patriotic resistance force in Ituri) that was surrendered by the Congolese authorities to the ICC and transferred to the ICC Headquarters as of Tuesday, 6 February 2008.

This man who played an essential role in the planning and implementation of crimes targeting mainly civilians of the ethnic group Hema, was cited in the list of persons and entities subject to travel restrictions, freezing of assets, and other financial measures under Security Council Resolution 1596 of 2005, paragraphs 13 and 15.

Matthieu Ngudjolo, named the Colonel in the National Army of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in December 2004, was notably implicated in the transfer of arms in violation to an arms embargo

According to the Court, Mr. Chui committed war crimes and crimes against humanity conforming to Articles 7 & 8 of the Rome Statute, the founding treaty of the ICC.

Impact of this new arrest:

This arrest has given hope to victims who feel honored by the arrest of a man who enjoyed impunity in his role in the national armed forces. This transfer is important for it marks the third case concerning Ituri. One can understand the sense of relief that this arrest might have for the victims of the Hema ethnic group who until his arrest had the impression that only Lubanga would pay the price for his crimes. Moreover, the handing-over of Matthieu Ngudjolo to the Court could signify that the Congolese government is mounting pressure to pursue other warlords such as Laurent Nkunda, Jules Mutebusi and Kawa Panga who believe that after the Goma peace negotiations their acts will be amnestied.

The club des amis du droit du Congo applauds this new arrest which contributes to the fight against impunity in the Congo. For us, warlords like Peter Karim and Cobra Matata who still occupy positions of command within the Congolese military must also be prosecuted for their crimes.

Signed by Club des Amis du droit du Congo President, Eugène Bakama Bope

(Translation is unofficial and provided by the CICC Secretariat)