

# INTERNATIONAL P · E · N

FOUNDED 1921



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## **The Assembly of Delegates of International PEN, meeting at the 71<sup>st</sup> World Congress held in Bled, Slovenia between 14-21 June 2005**

**Deeply concerned** at the British government's treatment of **Jean-Louis N'tadi**, a playwright from Congo-Brazzaville, who has been held in five different detention centres since arriving in the UK in February 2004, until his temporary release on bail in May 2005.

**Shocked that**, despite the performance of N'tadi's play on 21 June 2005 at the London Eye as part of the UK's cultural focus on Africa 05, the government still fails to recognise his status as a bona fide writer persecuted in his country for writing a play critical of the regime, and for exercising his right to free expression.

**Urges** the British government, until such time as the political climate is safe for N'tadi to return to his wife and six children in Congo-Brazzaville, a country in which his fear of death is well-founded, to offer him asylum in the UK.

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