



## **Zambian police arrest Congolese nationals for human trafficking**

[Report by Edwin Mbulo: "Police Shoot Congolese Over Human Trafficking"]

Police in Livingstone have shot and wounded one Congolese national and arrested five others for suspected human trafficking.

Southern Province commanding officer Lemmy Kajoba said on Monday that police picked up a Congolese man in Maramba area on Saturday night near the rail line during their intensified night patrols.

"On Saturday during the intensified night patrols during the festive season, my officers around 02:00 hours picked up a man in Maramba near a rail line and when they asked him what he was doing at that late hour, he said that he was waiting for his girlfriend. The police became suspicious and insisted that he takes them to the girlfriend's house. Upon reaching a house in MS section, the owner of the house said he did not have the named girl in his house and did not even know the man," Kajoba said.

He added that upon detaining the man at Libuyu police station, he was found with a passport which had seven names of children listed in it.

"He said that he was taking the children to South Africa and that they were at the no-mans land on the Victoria Falls Bridge. But after the police went to the bridge, they did not find any children, so we became very suspicious and upon further interrogation, the man said that his friends had probably gone ahead with the children. We however wondered how this could be if the passport was left behind. So the man revealed that he had other friends staying at a named lodge in Highlands area," he said.

Kajoba further added that upon searching the guesthouse, three Congolese were found hiding in a toilet while one decided to bolt.

"One Congolese outran the police and after two warning shots were fired, the police decided to shoot him in the thigh. He is currently in the Livingstone General Hospital while the other five are in police custody and we have involved our colleagues in the other departments such as immigration and we have asked our colleagues to check if they have any children missing," Kajoba said.

And Kajoba said an armoury in Sinazeze was broken into and detonators stolen.

*Source: The Post website, Lusaka, in English 23 Dec 09*

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