

**TWO REPORTS FROM EDEUS MASSAWE, ACTING DIRECTOR OF
MAHALE MTS. WILDLIFE RESEARCH CENTRE**

**FIVE YOUNG ORPHANED CHIMPS
CONFISCATED IN KIGOMA, TANZANIA**



This case involved 5 young chimpanzees (2 females and 3 males) and 66 African grey parrots. They were all found crowded into small containers in Room No. 4 at New Mwanga Guest House in Mwanga, Kigoma on 21st March 1994. They were claimed as the property of one Mr. Eliasa s/o Juma, resident of Arumeru Arusha, Tanzania who was accompanied by another man named Riziki Ramio. Together they were arrested by the Kigoma RGO, Mr. Sommy with his assistant Mr. Manumbu, in the presence of the acting Director of Mahale Wildlife Research Centre Mr. Massawe. Eliasa and Ramio were immediately taken together

with all their exhibits to the Kigoma Central Police Station where statements were taken and the accused remanded while the animals were taken to Aqua to join Rafiki for the immediate care they needed.

The case was opened at the Kigoma Magistrates Court and mentioned for the first time as Economic Crime case No. E.C.4/94 on 7 April 1994. It was decided that all the chimpanzees and parrots be surrendered to the Director of Wildlife and the RGO Kigoma accepted them on his behalf.

In fact, the 5 chimps and 66 parrots were all in very poor condition, some too young to survive without special individual treatment and feeding. The Police facilities and resources could not offer such care so they had to be assessed and counted in the same car they arrived in and then sent to Aqua for immediate care. Such care came from the Wildlife officials in Kigoma, through the help and resources at Aqua and the scientists at the Gombe Stream Research

Centre of Jane Goodall. A committee of experts and interested supporters, known as the Committee for the Survival Of the Kigoma Orphaned Chimpanzees (S. O. K. O.) was formed to deal with the immediate overwhelming problems: the ill condition of the animals, developing at least temporary places for keeping them, raising funds for feeding and caring for them while waiting for the final decision

on their fate from the Director of Wildlife. The whole of this occurred at a time when the Director of Mahale had no funds to do much in helping the situation if it was not for the joint effort of the formed committee.

Tragically one female chimpanzee of about 2 years of age, named SUBIRI, died on 22 March 1994. ZORO, the youngest male, although in a very desperate

condition, miraculously recovered through the intensive care provided by scientists from Gombe. The other males, DOSI and KIPARA and the only female, KARANGA, recovered well with adequate feeding and treatment of their illnesses. The committee requested the supervision of Dr. Janette Wallis, of Gombe Stream Research centre, for the daily care of the chimpanzees. ■