

URGENT ACTION

LAWYER AND ACTIVIST RISK 10 – 15 YEARS IN JAIL

Human rights lawyer, Arão Bula Tempo, was conditionally released on 13 May. However, human rights activist, José Marcos Mavungo, remains in detention at Cabinda civil prison (Cadeia Civil de Comarca de Cabinda) as authorities continue to conduct investigations into his case. They have both been charged separately with crimes against the security of the state and risk jail sentences of between 10 – 15 years.

Human rights defender **Arão Bula Tempo** was conditionally released pending trial on 13 May after two months of imprisonment solely for his involvement in the organisation of a peaceful protest to denounce corruption, human rights violations and bad governance in Cabinda, Angola. The protest would have taken place on 14 March, the day he was arrested. As a condition for his release, Arão Bula Tempo must not leave the country without authorization from state authorities in charge of his case. Arão Bula Tempo was charged on 20 March with "collaboration with foreigners to constrain the Angolan state". He could face up to 10 years in jail if convicted of the charge.

José Marcos Mavungo, a human rights defender arrested and detained on the same day as Arão Bula Tempo in connection with the organisation of the peaceful protest, remains in detention as investigations into his case continue. There are concerns about his health as he suffers from serious cardiac problems and a liver inflammation. Authorities have refused to allow his personal doctor to treat him regularly. He has also been receiving visits from military officers in his cell late at night, for unknown reasons.

Two days after his arrest, José Marcos Mavungo was charged with sedition, but later authorities decided to conduct further investigations into his case and amended the sedition charge to rebellion without modifying the facts relating to the crime. The offense of rebellion carries a heavier penalty of up to 15 years' imprisonment.

Please write immediately in English, Portuguese or your own language:

- Calling on the Angolan authorities to immediately and unconditionally release José Marcos Mavungo;
- Urging the Angolan authorities to ensure José Marcos Mavungo is not subjected to any further ill-treatment and is provided with access to doctors and proper health care pending his unconditional release;
- Calling on the Angolan authorities to drop all charges against both human rights defenders, as they have been charged solely for their human rights work;
- Urging the Angolan authorities to end the practice of arbitrary arrests, harassment and intimidation of human rights defenders in Angola.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 6 JULY 2015 TO:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Jorge Rebelo Chicoti
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Palácio do Comércio
Avenida Comandante Gika
Luanda
Republic of Angola

Salutation: A sua Excelencia

Ministry of Justice and Human Rights

Rui Jorge Carneiro Manguera
Ministry of Justice and Human Rights
Rua 17 Setembro, No. 32
CP 1986
Luanda
Republic of Angola

Salutation: A sua Excelencia

General Prosecutor of Angola

Dr João Maria Moreira de Sousa
Office of the General Prosecutor
Rua 17 Setembro
Largo do Amor, Vila Alice
Luanda
Republic of Angola

Salutation: Exmo Dr.

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:

Name Address 1 Address 2 Address 3 Fax Fax number Email Email address Salutation Salutation

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the first update of UA 78/15. Further information:

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/AFR12/1389/2015/en/>

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Dissent in Angola is frequently dealt with repressively, and often violently, by the different authorities in charge of state security. Amnesty International has documented how the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly have been unlawfully restricted in Angola in its report *Punishing Dissent: Suppression of Freedom of Association and Assembly in Angola* (Index: AFR 12/004/2014).

Some of those who have challenged the government of President José Eduardo dos Santos have been subjected to extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention and torture. Despite freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly being clearly enshrined in the country's constitution and in several international treaties that Angola has signed and ratified, violations to these rights continue to occur.

Names: Arão Bula Tempo, José Marcos Mavungo

Gender m/f: m

Further Information UA: 78/15 Index: AFR 12/1697/2015 Issue Date: 25 May 2015