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LEGAL AID BOARD

## Angola - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on Friday 26 August 2016

### Information on state/police corruption

The *Bertelsmann Foundation* in 2016 states that:

“Angola has adopted an anti-corruption framework and a justice reform, initiated in 2014, and plans to include the crimes of money laundering and embezzlement in the new criminal code. However, despite regular public proclamations of “zero tolerance” against corruption, only a few cases of office abuse and corruption are ever prosecuted” (Bertelsmann Foundation (2016) *BTI 2016; Angola Country Report, 2016*, p.11).

*Freedom House* in 2016 reporting on events of 2015 notes that:

“Corruption and patronage are endemic in Angola’s entrenched political elite, which is largely unaccountable to the public” (Freedom House (2016) *Freedom in the World 2016*).

A report published in February 2016 by *Amnesty International* reviewing events of the preceding year notes:

“Security forces used excessive force against people who criticized the government, exposed corruption or denounced human rights violations” (Amnesty International (24 February 2016) *Amnesty International Report 2015/16 - The State of the World's Human Rights – Angola*).

A document released in April 2016 by the *United States Department of State* commenting on events of 2015 states:

“Police presence in neighborhoods and on streets was generally welcomed by the population as enhancing general safety and security. Police officers, however, were believed to routinely extort civilians to supplement their income. Corruption and impunity remained serious problems” (United States Department of State (13 April 2016) *2015 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices – Angola*).

This report also notes:

“Although the law provides criminal penalties for official corruption, the government did not implement these laws effectively, and local and international NGOs and media sources reported officials engaged in corrupt practices with impunity. Corruption: Government corruption existed at all levels, although there were some institutions working to improve transparency and accountability within the government. Public prosecutions of corruption cases were rare. Government corruption was widespread, and accountability was limited due to a lack of checks and balances, lack of institutional capacity, and a culture of impunity. The judiciary was subject to political influence and conflict of interest” (ibid).

In April 2016 the *United States Overseas Security Advisory Council* notes in a report that:

“Angola's police continue to improve their capacities, though their service is still challenged by issues of corruption, resources, and training” (United States Overseas Security Advisory Council (19 April 2016) *Angola 2016 Crime & Safety Report*).

A document issued in May 2016 by the *Action for Southern Africa* states that

“...Angola perceived as highly corrupt...” (Action for Southern Africa (6 May 2016) *Angola Monitor Issue 2:2016*).

In July 2016 the *United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights* states that:

“The Committee is concerned about the persistence of corruption and illicit financial flows in the State party, leading to the draining of resources and increasing inequalities between geographic regions and social groups” (United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (15 July 2016) *Concluding observations on the fourth and fifth periodic report of Angola*, p.2).

A report issued in August 2016 by the *Business Anti-Corruption* notes that:

“Corruption remains widespread within the Angolan police” (Business Anti-Corruption (August 2016) *Angola Country Profile*).

In August 2016 the *Economist Intelligence Unit* notes that:

“Although the government has made advances with economic reforms, poor public expenditure management, excessive bureaucracy and official corruption remain huge problems” (Economist Intelligence Unit (17 August 2016) *Angola risk: Risk overview*).

A report issued in August 2016 by the *Economist Intelligence Unit* states:

“Corruption is endemic in Angola at all levels of government and society” (Economist Intelligence Unit (17 August 2016) *Angola risk: Government effectiveness risk*).

*BMI Research* in October 2016 states:

“An ill-equipped and corrupt national police force increases vulnerability to crime” (BMI Research (1 October 2016) *Angola - Q4 2016*).

*BMI Research* in October 2016 points out that:

“Angola suffers from high levels of crime, endemic corruption among authorities and law enforcement” (BMI Research (1 October 2016) *Angola - Q4 2016*).

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This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

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