

**EXTERNAL (for general distribution)**

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**Legal concern/Fear of ill-treatment**

**11 November 1992**

**ANGOLA:**

**Godfrey Absalom Nangonya, aged 61**

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Godfrey Absalom Nangonya was reported to have been arrested at his home in the capital, Luanda, on 1 November 1992 after the out-break of fierce fighting between government forces and armed members of the opposition União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola (UNITA), National Union for the Total Independence of Angola. He is reported to have been imprisoned solely on account of his sympathy with UNITA. Godfrey Absalom Nangonya is reportedly being held incommunicado in the Luanda high security prison known as the Prisão da Estrada de Catete. His family has reportedly taken food to the prison but they have not been able to see him. Amnesty International is concerned about his safety in view of the current tense situation in Angola in which UNITA members have been the targets of violent attacks and UNITA prisoners are reported to have been ill-treated.

Godfrey Absalom Nangonya, aged 61, was imprisoned on several occasions before Angola became independent in 1975 and was redetained in February 1976, apparently because of his sympathies with UNITA, and held without charge or trial until November 1981. He subsequently worked for the state oil company, SONANGOL. He is a prominent member of the Associação Cívica de Angola, Angolan Civic Association, and was one of those responsible for the association's human rights program: in this capacity he has made appeals to UNITA concerning prisoners held by UNITA.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Violent clashes took place in Luanda between 30 October and 2 November 1992 as diplomatic efforts were underway to resolve the political crisis following UNITA's rejection of the results of the September elections and its occupation of large areas of the country. Over 1,000 people are estimated to have been killed in Luanda since 30 October. Many lost their lives in the fighting but there have been persistent reports that citizens to whom the authorities distributed arms have carried out reprisal killings against suspected UNITA supporters. The authorities have made public announcements calling on people not to carry out reprisal killings but the government is not known to have made it clear that anyone carrying out such acts will be brought to justice. Other UNITA members and supporters were arrested - some are recently reported to have been released. UNITA is also reported to have killed suspected supporters of the government and it has taken prisoners and hostages.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/airmail letters either in Portuguese or in your own language:**

- expressing concern about the arrest of Godfrey Absalom Nangonya, who appears to

have been detained solely because of his political views;

- calling for his immediate release unless he is to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence and given a prompt and fair trial;

- urging that he be given access to his family and lawyers and that he is not ill-treated whilst in detention;

- calling on the authorities to release any others who may be detained solely because they have expressed, or are suspected of expressing, support for UNITA

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without taking up arms against the government and to ensure that any who remain detained are treated in accordance with international standards to protect prisoners.

**APPEALS TO**

1) President of the Republic:

Sua Excelência  
José Eduardo dos Santos  
Gabinete da Presidência da República  
Palácio do Povo  
Luanda  
República de Angola

Salutation: Sua Excelência /  
Your Excellency

**Telegrams: Presidente da Republica, Luanda, Angola**

**Telexes: 3345 gab pres an**

2) Interior Minister:

Sua Excelência  
Francisco Magalhães Paiva "Nvunda"  
Ministro do Interior  
Ministério do Interior  
Avenida 4 Fevereiro  
Luanda  
República de Angola

Salutation: Sua Excelência /  
Your Excellency

**Telegrams: Ministro do Interior, Luanda, Angola**

3) Procurator General of the Republic:

Excelentíssimo Senhor  
Antero Guedosa de Abreu  
Procurador Geral da República  
Rua 17 Setembro  
Luanda  
República de Angola

Salutation: Excelentíssimo Senhor /  
Dear Sir

**Telegrams: Procurador Geral da República, Luanda, Angola**

4) Provincial Police Chief:

Primeiro Superintendente  
Gaspar Manuel da Silva  
Comandante Provincial da Polícia  
Direcção da Polícia Provincial  
Avenida 4 de Fevereiro, 204  
Luanda  
República de Angola

Salutation: Excelentíssimo Senhor /  
Dear Sir

**Telegrams: Primeiro Superintendente Gaspar Manuel Silva, Direcção Polícia**

**Provincial, Luanda, Angola**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

Foreign Minister:

Sua Excelência

Pedro de Castro Van Dúnem "Loy"

Ministro das Relações Exteriores

Palácio do Comércio

Avenida Comandante Gika

Luanda

República de Angola

and to diplomatic representatives of Angola accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 23 December 1992.