

# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

## PUBLIC STATEMENT

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### **Angola: Amnesty International urges end to forced eviction and protection of human rights defenders**

#### ***Human Rights Council adopts Universal Periodic Review outcome on Angola***

Amnesty International welcomes Angola's engagement with the Universal Periodic Review. Earlier Angola took all 166 recommendations made to it under consideration; however, Angola's position on these was not communicated to the Human Rights Council in advance of the adoption of the outcome.

The organization also welcomes Angola's support for recommendations aimed at ending forced evictions and urges their early implementation.<sup>1</sup> It has received reports that in early March this year over 3,000 families were forcibly evicted from their homes in the southern city of Lubango and transported to an area outside the city with no facilities or services. Some were provided with tents, but most were left to fend for themselves in the open. Seven people reportedly died as a direct or indirect result of these evictions; however, no official investigation is known to have taken place.

As recommended during the review, Amnesty International urges Angola to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aiming at the abolition of the death penalty,<sup>2</sup> the Convention against Torture and its Optional Protocol,<sup>3</sup> the Convention on Enforced Disappearances<sup>4</sup>; and the Optional Protocol to International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.<sup>5</sup> Amnesty International calls on Angola to implement them in national law without delay.

Amnesty International also welcomes Angola's support of recommendations to ensure respect for freedom of expression and the press as well as freedom of association and assembly,<sup>6</sup> and to protect and respect the work of human rights defenders and other civil society groups by allowing them to carry out their work unhindered.<sup>7</sup> These recommendations are particularly pertinent in view of the government's refusal to allow peaceful demonstrations in Benguela in March against forced evictions, and in late May in Cabinda to protest against alleged arbitrary detentions

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<sup>1</sup> A/HRC/14/11. paragraph 87, recommendations 131-137 (Netherlands, Malaysia, Spain and Uruguay)

<sup>2</sup> Ibid, paragraph, 87, recommendations 1, 6, 13 and 19 (Brazil, Belgium, Portugal and the Philippines)

<sup>3</sup> Ibid, paragraph 87, recommendations 1,3, 6, 8, 9, 11,14, 15, 16,19,20, 21, 73, 75 (Brazil, Hungary, Belgium, Czech Republic, Azerbaijan, USA, Mexico, Germany, UK, Philippines, South Korea and Cote d'Ivoire, Sweden, Italy)

<sup>4</sup> Ibid, paragraph 87, recommendations 5, 14 and 17 (France, Mexico, Spain)

<sup>5</sup> Ibid, paragraph 87, recommendations 12 and 17 (Portugal and Spain)

<sup>6</sup> Ibid, paragraph 87, recommendations 101-104 (Czech Republic, Norway, USA, UK) 107-110 (France, Norway, Canada, UK)

<sup>7</sup> Ibid, paragraph 87, recommendations 104-107 (Norway, Ireland, Slovakia)

**Background**

The UN Human Rights Council adopted the outcome of the Universal Periodic Review of Angola on 10 June 2010 during its 14th session. Prior to the adoption of the report of the review Amnesty International delivered the oral statement above. Amnesty International also contributed to the information basis of the review through its submission on Angola: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AFR12/005/2009/en>

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