

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 208/92 Arbitrary detention/fear of "disappearance"

23 June 1992

ANGOLA: Bela Malaquias, (female), journalist  
Germana "Tita" (female), her sister  
Nelson, her father

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Bela Malaquias, a 33-year-old journalist, was reportedly taken against her will, in early June 1992, to Jamba, the headquarters of the União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola (UNITA), National Union for the Total Independence of Angola. There are fears that she could be made to "disappear" because of her suspected opposition to UNITA's policies or leadership.

Since the signing of the May 1991 Peace Accords for Angola which ended Angola's 16-year civil war, UNITA has had equal powers with the Angolan Government, through the Comissão Conjunto Politico-Militar (CCPM), Joint Political-Military Commission, in matters which relate to the implementation of the Peace Accords. Through the CCPM, therefore, UNITA and the government share certain governmental functions and responsibilities. These include the release of all prisoners detained in the context of the conflict, the extension of government administration to areas controlled by UNITA and ensuring full enjoyment of the rights to freedom of movement, speech, information and association.

In contravention of the Peace Accords, however, Jamba and certain other areas remain under the full control of UNITA. UNITA is said to have released over 3,000 prisoners since May 1991 but it continues to hold dozens of captured government soldiers as well as real or suspected UNITA dissidents (opponents of UNITA's policies or leadership) either in detention centres or under restriction in Jamba. Fears for those still held against their will, particularly UNITA dissidents, were proved well-founded when UNITA admitted in April 1992 that two former UNITA officials, Pedro "Tito" Chingunji and Fernando Wilson dos Santos, who had been accused of trying to overthrow UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi, were deliberately killed in Jamba, together with their wives and children, between August and November 1991.

Bela Malaquias had been living in Jamba until early 1992 when she and her husband were sent to Luanda to work at the offices which UNITA set up there after the May 1991 Peace Accords. In Luanda she contacted family members including a brother who defected from UNITA some years ago. In doing so she apparently defied implicit or explicit UNITA instructions to its officials not to have private contacts with members of their families who are not UNITA members. In early June 1992 Bela Malaquias was ordered to go to Benguela to report on a public meeting addressed by UNITA's leader, Jonas Savimbi. After the meeting Bela Malaquias entered a UNITA aeroplane which she thought was to take her back to Luanda but the pilot was ordered to go to Jamba.

Two of Bela Malaquias' relatives, her sister Germana, known as "Tita", and her father,

Nelson, a mathematics teacher, are also restricted to Jamba. Members of the Malaquias family in Luanda appealed for "Tita" and Nelson Malaquias to be allowed to travel to Luanda but UNITA is reported to have replied that Nelson Malaquias could not be released from his duties. "Tita" Malaquias narrowly escaped being killed in 1983. She and other women suspected of opposing UNITA's policies or leadership were accused of being witches. Most of these women and some of their young children, were among at least 12 people publicly burned alive on the parade ground in Jamba on 7 September 1983. "Tita" Malaquias was reprieved at the last minute but imprisoned for over a year instead.

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**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/airmail letters:**

- expressing concern that Bela Malaquias was reportedly taken to Jamba against her will in early June 1992 and is now detained or restricted;
- expressing fears for the safety of Bela Malaquias, which are based on the knowledge that known or suspected internal critics of UNITA have been deliberately killed or have "disappeared" both before and after the Peace Accords for Angola were signed in May 1991;
- expressing concern that her sister Germana "Tita", and her father, Nelson, are also restricted to Jamba;
- urging that Bela Malaquias and her two relatives are released.

**APPEALS TO**

The following members of the CCPM. The address for all four is:

Sede da CCPM  
Largo de Mayanga  
Luanda  
República Popular de Angola

1) Government Representative:  
Sua Excelência  
Coronel Fernando da Piedade Dias dos Santos "Nando"  
Delegado do Governo na CCPM

**Telegrams: Sua Excelência, Coronel  
Fernando dos Santos "Nando",  
CCPM, Luanda, Angola**

**Salutation: Sua Excelência /  
Your Excellency**

3) UNITA Representative:  
Exmo. Sr. Abel Chivukuvuku  
Delegado da UNITA na CCPM

**Telegrams: Exmo Sr Abel Chivukuvuku,  
CCPM, Luanda, Angola**

**Salutation: Exmo. Sr. / Dear Sir**

2) Government Representative:  
Sua Excelência  
Pedro Maria Tonha "Pedalé"  
Delegado do Governo na CCPM

**Telegrams: Sua Excelência Pedro Tonha  
"Pedalé", CCPM, Luanda,  
Angola**

**Salutation: Sua Excelência /  
Your Excellency**

4) UNITA Representative:  
Exmo. Sr. Elias Salupeto Pena  
Delegado da UNITA na CCPM

**Telegrams: Exmo Sr Salupeto Pena, CCPM,  
Luanda, Angola**

**Salutation: Exmo. Sr. / Dear Sir**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:** diplomatic representatives of Angola and to UNITA representative offices in your country. Also to the following diplomatic representatives in your country whose governments have observer status on the CCPM:

Portugal, the Russian Federation and the United States of America, .

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 25 July 1992.