

URGENT ACTION

PEACEFUL ACTIVISTS STILL DETAINED WITHOUT CHARGE

The fifteen activists arrested between 20 and 24 June in Luanda, Angola remain in detention with no formal indictment since their arrest in connection with a peaceful meeting to discuss politics and governance concerns. An additional arrest was made on 30 June and peaceful protests calling for the activists' release on 29 July and 8 August were met with police violence.

The fifteen activists arrested by Angolan security forces between 20 and 24 June in Luanda, remain in detention and have not been formally charged. This includes academic and journalist **Domingos da Cruz** and political and human rights activists **Henrique Luaty da Silva Beirão**, **Manuel Chivonde** (Nito Alves), **Nuno Álvaro Dala**, **Afonso Mahenda Matias** (Mbanza Hanza), **Nelson Dibango Mendes dos Santos**, **Hitler Jessy Chivonde** (Itler Samussuko), **Albano Evaristo Bingocabingo**, **Sedrick Domingos de Carvalho**, **Fernando António Tomás** (Nicolas o Radical), **Arante Kivuvu Italiano Lopes**, **Benedito Jeremias**, **José Gomes Hata** (Cheick Hata), **Inocêncio António de Brito** and **Oswaldo Sérgio Correia Caholo**. **Zenóbio Lázaro Muhondo Zumba**, an analyst at the Information and Analysis department attached to the Angolan Armed Force, was also arrested on 30 June for appearing in a photograph with Oswaldo Caholo. Zenóbio Zumba has also been detained without charge.

The fifteen activists were accused of preparing a rebellion and a coup attempt against the president and other government members in connection with a peaceful meeting on 20 June to discuss politics and governance concerns under President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, who has been in power for the past 36 years. At the time of the arrests police forces carried out searches without warrants and seized technological equipment from homes of some of the people they suspected of being involved in the meeting.

On 29 July, police violently suppressed, with beatings and arrests, a peaceful protest calling for the activists' release in Luanda. Solidarity protests were also held in Portugal, Belgium and Germany. On 8 August, protesters were peacefully demanding the release of the activists when armed police used batons, dogs and beatings against the mothers and other relatives of the activists in order to disperse the crowd. Several people were briefly detained.

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

- Calling on the Angolan authorities to immediately and unconditionally release the 16 imprisoned men and to return the seized technological equipment;
- Pending their unconditional release, calling on the authorities to ensure the men are not subjected to torture or other ill-treatment and have immediate access to lawyers of their choice and contact with family;
- Urging the Angolan authorities to end the practice of arbitrary arrests, harassment and intimidation of activists, upholding the right to freedom of association, assembly and expression.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 2 OCTOBER 2015 TO:

Minister of Justice and Human Rights

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

Salutation: A sua Excelência

General Prosecutor of Angola

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 143/15. Further information:

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/AFR12/1971/2015/en/>

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Dissent is frequently dealt with repressively, and often violently, by the Angolan authorities. Amnesty International has documented how the freedom of expression and peaceful assembly have been unlawfully restricted in Angola in its report *Punishing Dissent: Suppression of Freedom of Association and Assembly in Angola* (see here: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/AFR12/004/2014/en/>).

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 and peaceful assembly being clearly enshrined in the country's constitution and in several international treaties that Angola has signed and ratified, violations of these rights continue to occur.

Names: Henrique Luaty da Silva Beirão, Manuel Chivonde (Nito Alves), Nuno Álvaro Dala, Afonso Mahenda Matias (Mbanza Hanza), Nelson Dibango Mendes dos Santos, Hitler Jessy Chivonde (Itler Samussuko), Albano Evaristo Bingocabingo, Sedrick Domingos de Carvalho, Fernando António Tomás (Nicolas o Radical), Arante Kivuvu Italiano Lopes, Benedito Jeremias, José Gomes Hata (Cheick Hata), Inocêncio António de Brito, Osvaldo Sérgio Correia Caholo, Domingos da Cruz and Zenóbio Zuma.
Gender m/f: all male

Further information on UA: 143/15 Index: AFR 12/2295/2015 Issue Date: 21 August 2015