

URGENT ACTION

ACTIVIST'S TRIAL STARTS: RISKS 12 YEARS IN JAIL

José Marcos Mavungo's trial started on 26 August and the General Sub-Prosecutor has asked for the maximum penalty: a 12-year prison term. A ruling on the case is expected on 14 September. He is a prisoner of conscience.

The trial of human rights defender **José Marcos Mavungo** started on 26 August. He has been in pre-trial detention since 14 March for taking part in the organisation of a peaceful protest. He was charged with "rebellion", a crime against the security of the state.

During the trial, the General Sub-Prosecutor in Cabinda said that an intelligence file claims José Marcos Mavungo had associated with a group of men who had been found with explosives and fliers. The human rights defender has always denied this allegation. Although the fliers and explosives were not presented during trial, nor was any evidence of José Marcos Mavungo's relation to the men, the General Sub-Prosecutor in Cabinda has asked for a 12-year jail term - the maximum penalty allowed by law. The judge will rule on his case on 14 September.

Amnesty International considers José Marcos Mavungo to be a prisoner of conscience as he has been charged and detained solely for his peaceful exercise of his rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly, and it is intended to intimidate other government critics.

Another human rights defender, **Arão Bula Tempo**, was also arrested and detained on 14 March. He was conditionally released on 13 May but is forbidden from leaving the province of Cabinda. His health is constantly deteriorating and he needs to seek medical care outside the province. Arão Tempo and his family have also been facing harassment and have received threats from Angolan authorities since his release with the aim to deter Arão's human rights activism.

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

- Calling on the Angolan authorities to immediately and unconditionally release José Marcos Mavungo, as he is a prisoner of conscience imprisoned solely for the peaceful exercise of his rights;
- Calling on them to drop all the charges against José Marcos Mavungo and Arão Bula Tempo, as they are based solely on their peaceful work as human rights defenders;
- Urging them to allow Arão Bula Tempo to leave the province of Cabinda to seek the medical care he needs, even if he has to leave the country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 20 OCTOBER 2015 TO:

General Sub-Prosecutor in Cabinda

Antonio Nito
Tribunal Provincial de Cabinda
Largo Pedro Bengé
Cabinda – Republic of Angola
Phone: + 244 926 879 188 or +244 913 190 648
Email: antonionito2012@yahoo.com.br

Salutation: Exmo. Dr.

General Prosecutor of Angola

João Maria Moreira de Sousa
Office of the General Prosecutor
Rua 17 de Setembro
Largo do Amor, Vila Alice
Luanda – Republic of Angola

Salutation: Exmo. Dr.

Minister of Justice and Human Rights

Rui Jorge Carneiro Manguera
Ministry of Justice and Human Rights
Rua 17 de Setembro, nº 32
CP 1986
Luanda – Republic of Angola

Salutation: A Sua Excelência

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 third update of UA 78/15. Further information:

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr12/2039/2015/en/>

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



URGENT ACTION

ACTIVIST'S TRIAL STARTS: RISKS 12 YEARS IN JAIL

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Dissent in Angola is frequently dealt with repressively, and often violently, by the various authorities. Amnesty International has documented how the rights to 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* (<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 enforced disappearance, extra judicial execution, arbitrary detention and torture. Freedoms of expression, association and peaceful assembly are clearly enshrined in Angola's constitution and several international treaties that the country has signed and ratified, but violations to these rights continue.

Names: José Marcos Mavungo, Arão Bula Tempo
Gender m/f: m

Further information on UA: 78/15 Index: AFR 12/2362/2015 Issue Date: 8 September 2015