

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC STATEMENT

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Angola: Authorities must bring to justice police officers suspected to be responsible for the killings of three citizens in Benguela

Angolan authorities must launch a thorough and impartial investigation into the killing of three people in the Southern province of Benguela and bring to justice those suspected to be responsible, said Amnesty International today.

The three victims were members of a local community and were shot dead by police officers on Friday 30 October 2015. The killings follow tension between the local community and local authorities as a consequence of intimidation and excessive force used by the police towards the community members, including the recent destruction of their shelters, water tanks and personal belongings after several attempts to forcefully evict them from the land they occupy.

According to members of the community and local civil society organizations supporting them, the land has been used by their families since colonial times and they have recently presented a request to obtain the legal documents on the use of the land. The community has been subjected to intimidation and assaults by the police, including by excessive use of force on several occasions.

Angolan authorities have carried out forced evictions on a larger scale in recent years.

Amnesty International is calling on Angolan authorities to promptly and thoroughly investigate the allegations of killings and other human rights violations and bring to justice anyone suspected to be responsible. The loss of life and violation of other human rights are deplorable and these cases resolved to avoid the continuing impunity of perpetrators.

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