

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 183/94 (AFR 12/02/94, 11 May 1994) - Legal concern

ANGOLA: Lourenço Adão Agostinho, human rights worker, journalist and lawyer
William Tonet, human rights worker, journalist

Lourenço Adão Agostinho, who was tried on 24 May 1994, was found guilty of "abuse of confidence" in connection with a charge of embezzlement and sentenced, on 31 May, to two years and six months' imprisonment. The court then reduced the sentence to 10 months. Amnesty International was informed that both the prosecution and the defence counsel had called for a suspended sentence. An appeal against the judgment and sentence has been lodged.

Amnesty International remains concerned that the defence lawyer was only given access to the trial dossier two days before the trial and therefore may not have had adequate time to prepare the defence case. In view of this and the apparently arbitrary procedures leading to the arrest of Lourenço Adão Agostinho on 5 May 1994, it also remains concerned that he may have been subjected to deliberate harassment because of his activities connected with the *Associação dos Direitos Humanos de Angola* (ADHA), Angolan Human Rights Association.

The case against William Tonet has apparently not yet come to court.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes and airmail letters either in Portuguese, Spanish, English or your own language:

- referring to your previous correspondence and saying that you understand Lourenço Adão Agostinho is now serving a sentence of 10 months, giving brief details about the trial;
- saying that you remain concerned that, in view of the reports of irregular pre-trial procedures, including the reports that he was arbitrarily arrested and that the defence counsel was unable to consult the trial documents until two days before the trial, it appears that the trial fell short of international minimum standards and Angolan law and requesting that the conviction be reviewed;
- requesting a copy of the judgment and trial record;
- asking to be informed of the result of the appeal to the Supreme Court;
- referring to the case of William Tonet and appealing for him to be given a prompt and fair trial in accordance with Article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

APPEALS TO:

President:

Sua Excelência José Eduardo dos Santos
Presidente da República
Futungo de Belas
Luanda
República de Angola

Telegrams: Presidente da Republica, Luanda, Angola

Telexes: 3072 Lugol an / 3345 gab pres an.

Salutation: Your Excellency

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Sua Excelência Venâncio da Silva Moura
Palácio do Comércio
Ministro das Relações Exteriores
Avenida Comandante Gika
Luanda

República de Angola

Telegrams: Ministro Moura, Ministerio Relaciones Exteriores, Luanda, Angola

Telexes: 3127 / 3128 mirex an

Salutation: Your Excellency

Minister of Justice

Sua Excelência Paulo Chipilica

Ministro da Justiça

Ministério da Justiça

Luanda

República de Angola

Telegrams: Ministro Chipilica, Ministerio da Justicia, Luanda, Angola

Salutation: Your Excellency

Procurator General

Exmo Sr. Dr. Antero Gruedosa Abreu

Procurador Geral da República

Procuradoria Geral da República

Luanda

República de Angola

Telegrams: Procurator Geral da Republica, Luanda, Angola

Salutation: Dear Sir/Dear Procurator General

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Exmo Sr. Rui Ferreira

Secretário dos Assuntos Jurídicos

Gabinete da Presidência da República

Futungo de Belas

Luanda

República de Angola

and to diplomatic representatives of Angola accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 9 August 1994.