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**Arbitrary detention/Fear for safety/Fear of torture/
Incommunicado Detention**

ANGOLA **João Gime (m), aged 47, oil company worker**
Ivo Macaia (m), aged 44, storekeeper
Estevão Buanje (m), aged about 30
António Mambo Tigre (m), aged about 43,
Lourenço Gomes Pitra (m), aged about 40,
Buingi (m), catechist; religious teacher
Bento Banto (m),
Daniel (m), Bento Banto's nephew.

The eight men named above were arrested between 12 November and 9 December in the southern part of Cabinda; an Angolan enclave separated from the rest of the country by a narrow strip of land belonging to the Democratic Republic of Congo. The whereabouts of the men are unclear and there are fears for their safety.

The detainees were apparently suspected of supporting armed factions of the *Frente para a Libertação do Enclave de Cabinda* (FLEC), the Cabinda Enclave Liberation Front. In the past, people suspected of being FLEC supporters have been tortured whilst in detention.

On 12 November, Buingi, a catechist in the Roman Catholic Church, disappeared from Pepela village and three days later, Bento Banto and his nephew Daniel disappeared from Susso village. The three men were believed to have been arrested by members of the *Forças Armadas de Angola* (FAA), Angolan Armed Forces and are reportedly being detained in incommunicado detention. On 18 November, Estevão Buanje and António Mambo Tigre were arrested in Njaja village. Three days later, Lourenço Gomes Pitra was arrested in Nazando village. The three men were reportedly arrested while they were at work in their fields near their villages in the southern part of Cabinda by FAA soldiers. They were believed to have been taken to the FAA base in Tando Zinze, about 50 kilometres northeast of Cabinda city.

On 30 November, Ivo Macaia, an oil company storekeeper, was reportedly arrested at his home in Cabinda city by plainclothes police officers. He was reportedly taken to the headquarters of the paramilitary *Policia da Intervenção Rápida* (PIR), Rapid Intervention Police. His whereabouts are unknown at present.

João Gime, a worker for the same oil company was arrested on 9 December shortly after leaving work by car. Police stopped the car at a check-point just outside the oil company and arrested him. They did not have a warrant for his arrest and his whereabouts are also currently unknown.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Armed factions of FLEC have been fighting for many years for the independence of Cabinda. In October 2002, the Angolan government substantially increased military actions against FLEC. Soldiers are reported to have attacked villages, setting fire to homes and causing extensive internal displacement. Throughout the year, especially since October, there have been numerous reports of indiscriminate as well as deliberate and arbitrary killings of unarmed civilians, including women and children, and reports of arbitrary arrests and "disappearances". Women and girls have reportedly been raped by soldiers. FLEC factions have also carried out human rights abuses.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Portuguese or your own language:

- expressing concern for the safety of the eight men arrested between 12 November and 9 December in Cabinda;
- calling on the authorities to ensure that all detainees are held in recognized places of detention and given immediate access to family members and lawyers;
- calling for the detainees either to be charged in accordance with the law otherwise released;
- urgently requesting thorough and independent inquiries into all reports of human rights violations in Cabinda with a view to bringing suspected perpetrators to justice;
- urging the authorities to ensure that all police and military operations in Cabinda are carried out in strict accordance with national law and with international humanitarian and human rights law.

APPEALS TO (*fax numbers may be difficult to obtain, however please keep trying*):

Minister of Justice

Sua Excelência Paulo Tjipilica

Ministro da Justiça

Ministério da Justiça

Rua 17 de Setembro

Luanda

República de Angola

Faxes: + 2442 330 327 (if voice answers say: “ligar o fax, por favor”)

Salutation: Sua Excelência

Minister of Interior

Sua Excelência

Fernando da Piedade Dias dos Santos “Nando”

Ministro do Interior

Ministério do Interior

Avenida 4 Fevereiro

Luanda

República de Angola

Fax: +2442 395 133 (if voice answers say: “ligar o fax, por favor”)

Salutation: Sua Excelência

Minister of Defence

Sua Excelência Kundy Paihama

Ministro da Defesa

Ministério da Defesa

Rua 17 Setembro

Luanda

República de Angola

Faxes: 244 2 393 929 (if voice answers say: “ligar o fax, por favor”)

Salutation: Sua Excelência

COPIES 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 24 January 2003.