

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC STATEMENT

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ANGOLA: LAND, BASIC RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS

UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL ADOPTS UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW OUTCOME ON ANGOLA

Amnesty International welcomes Angola's acceptance of 259 recommendations, including those regarding freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly,¹ ratification of four international human rights treaties in October last year,² and the adoption of a national human rights strategy.³ We urge Angola to accept the 11 remaining recommendations.

Despite some improvements, arbitrary arrests, detention, and ill-treatment of demonstrators continue. Between January and March 2019, the police illegally arrested 62 activists and their family members and colleagues for organizing a peaceful protest in Cabinda.⁴ In December 2019 more activists were illegally arrested and some of them remain imprisoned in Cabinda. We call for their immediate and unconditional release.

Land diversion for commercial enterprises without human rights due diligence interferes with the right to food and water in rural areas. In the Gambos municipality, Huila province, 67% of grazing land is now occupied by commercial ranchers, exposing pastoralist communities to drought, severe food insecurity and hunger.⁵ We call on Angola to declare a moratorium on land granting in the Gambos, and to declare the municipality as a special grazing reserve for the pastoralists.

We welcome Angola's acceptance of the recommendations regarding water supply.⁶ The availability, quality and accessibility of water are precarious in urban and rural areas. In rural areas, the development of enterprises without human rights due diligence hampers access to safe drinking water. In urban areas, drinking water is below acceptable quality most of the time. Water is not supplied to everyone – priority is given to affluent neighborhoods.⁷ We call on Angola to fulfil the right to water by improving and scaling water supply in both urban and rural areas.

¹ Human Rights Council, Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review - Angola, 11 December 2019, UN Doc. A/HRC/43/11: Australia (146.120), Norway (146.121), Belgium (146.121), Sweden (146.123), Indonesia (146.124), Ireland (146.125), Canada (146.126), France (146.127), Austria (146.128), Iceland (146.129), Liechtenstein (146.130), Luxemburg (146.131), Slovakia (146.132).

² International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; and Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

³ Ministério da Justiça e dos Direitos Humanos, Angola aprova Estratégia Nacional de Direitos Humanos e Prémio Nacional de Direitos Humanos, 27 March 2020. Available at: <http://www.servicos.minjusdh.gov.ao/noticias-e-eventos/49/angola-aprova-estrategia-nacional-de-direitos-humanos-e-premio-nacional-de-direitos-humanos>.

⁴ Amnesty International, *Angola: Sixty-two activists, protesters arbitrarily held*, 12 February 2019. Available: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr12/9804/2019/en/>. The Movimento Independentista de Cabinda (MIC) activists were organizing to commemorate the Treaty of Simulambuco (1885) between the Portuguese Crown and the Cabinda authorities which established Cabinda as a Protectorate of Portugal.

⁵ Amnesty International, *The End of Cattle's Paradise: How Land Diversion for Ranches Eroded Food Security in the Gambos*. Available at: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr12/1020/2019/en/>.

⁶ A/HRC/43/11, Recommendations 146.162-64 (Dominican Republic, India, Spain),

⁷ *Angop, Angola: Expert warns of drinking water quality*, 20 Sep 2016. Available at: http://www.angop.ao/angola/en_us/noticias/sociedade/2016/8/38/Angola-Expert-warns-drinking-water-quality,4526a43e-gc02-4215-aa28-6549f8d6fe79.html.

Background

The UN Human Rights Council adopted the outcome of the Universal Periodic Review on Angola on 12 March 2020 during its 43rd session. This is Amnesty International's statement on the outcome prior to the adoption of the report of the review. The statement was not delivered in the session as the organization took the decision to protect its staff from the COVID 19 pandemic and to ensure it actively contributes to minimizing spread of the virus. Amnesty International also contributed to the information basis of the UPR review through its submission on [Angola](#).

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