

URGENT ACTION

ACTIVIST SHOT AND HELD INCOMMUNICADO

On 28 July, activist Serrote José de Oliveira, 33, was shot in the leg by unidentified armed men while livestreaming at the first day of a strike in Luanda, Angola. After a brief hospital visit, he was forcibly taken by police to the Talatona Municipal Command Station and has not been seen or heard from since. Amnesty International is concerned that Serrote José de Oliveira has been arbitrarily detained, denied access to adequate medical care, and is being held incommunicado. Amnesty International calls on the Angolan authorities to immediately disclose Serrote José de Oliveira's whereabouts, ensure he has access to all necessary medical care, his family and a lawyer, and unless charged with a recognisable offence, immediately release him.

TAKE ACTION: WRITE AN APPEAL IN YOUR OWN WORDS OR USE THIS MODEL LETTER

Minister of Justice and Human Rights

Marcy Cláudio Lopes
Casarão da Justiça, Rua 17 de Setembro
Gombota, Luanda, LU, Angola
E-mail: dndh.mjdh.angola@gmail.com

Dear Minister of Justice,

I am writing to express deep concern about serious human rights violations having been and continuing to be committed against 33-year-old **Serrote José de Oliveira**, also known as General Nila.

On 28 July, Serrote José de Oliveira, an activist and leader of UNTRA Movement- (Unidade Nacional para Total Revolução de Angola) - was filming a live video with fellow activists during the first day of a protest against rising fuel prices in Luanda, Angola's capital. A group of unidentified armed men approached and began shooting at the group. Serrote José de Oliveira was shot in the left leg. Witnesses believe the armed men were agents of the Criminal Investigation Service.

These same armed men were then seen transporting Serrote José de Oliveira to the Gameque village hospital. There, the activist managed to briefly contact members of his group, informing them he was receiving treatment. When his relatives arrived, they noted that the gunshot wound on his leg had been dressed. They however expected him to undergo further medical treatment. Minutes later, a National Police vehicle arrived and an officer ordered that Serrote José de Oliveira be transferred to another location.

Contrary to what has been officially communicated by the authorities, Serrote José de Oliveira was not taken to a general hospital but was instead transferred to the Talatona Municipal Command Station, where he was interrogated by several police officers. He last communicated with his family while at the Station on 28 July. Since then, his family and lawyer have had no further contact with him. They do not know his whereabouts, his health status or the legal basis for his continued detention.

The shooting of Serrote José de Oliveira, simply for livestreaming on social media, his arbitrary arrest and subsequent lack of adequate medical care for his injuries, followed by his current incommunicado detention are all extremely serious and deeply concerning. These actions violate Angola's national laws and its obligations under regional and international human rights law and standards.

I urge you to use all powers at your disposal to immediately order the disclosure of the fate and whereabouts of Serrote José de Oliveira and to order his immediate release, unless he is charged with an internationally recognisable offence, in which case due process must be ensured. Pending his release, he must be granted full access to urgent medical care, as well as to his family and legal counsel.

Yours sincerely,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Civil society groups in Angola called for nationwide protests, beginning on 12 July 2025, in response to the government's decision to raise diesel prices by over 30%. These protests reflected widespread frustration over the rising cost of living and the growing economic pressures faced by people in Angola. On the first day of the protests (which took place on 12 July), police cracked down on demonstrators – using unnecessary and excessive force – and [arrested](#) at least 12 people in Luanda.

On 19 July, activist Osvaldo Kaholol, 36, was [arrested](#) hours before another planned protest in Luanda, accused of inciting violence for allegedly participating in a livestream mobilizing people to protest. He was initially held for over 24 hours without access to his lawyer or family. His relatives later reported that he was transferred to Calomboloca Prison without any formal notification to his family or legal representatives. The family was only informed five days after the transfer. For eight consecutive days, Osvaldo was forced to wear the same clothes. He has been on hunger strike since 22 July, in protest against the authorities' refusal to allow his family to deliver food.

Following this wave of mobilization, the Angola National Taxi Association (ANATA) [called](#) for a three-day strike starting on 28 July, also in protest against the diesel price hike. The increase led to a 50% rise in minibus taxi fares, severely impacting daily commuters who rely on this form of public transport. Violent clashes with police, acts of vandalism and looting in different parts of Luanda were reported. On 31 July, the Minister of Interior, Manuel Homem, reported the arrest of 1,214 people, 22 deaths and 197 injured in 2 days of the strike.

Despite the scale of the protest, the Angolan government has not publicly responded to calls from civil society and opposition parties for a dialogue or review of the fuel pricing policy. This is not the first time change in fuel prices has triggered deadly protests in Angola. Amnesty International's latest report on Angola [documented](#) that what was known as the 'Huambo protests' on 5 June, led to five people being killed, including a 12 years old boy who was on his way home from school.

PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET: Portuguese, English

You can also write in your own language.

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: 30 January 2026

Please check with the Amnesty office in your country if you wish to send appeals after the deadline.

NAME AND PRONOUN: Serrote José de Oliveira (He/Him)