

URGENT ACTION

YOUTH ACTIVISTS ARBITRARILY ARRESTED

Fifteen activists have been arbitrarily arrested by the security forces in Angola, in connection with a meeting to discuss politics and governance concerns. They have been accused of planning to disrupt public order and the public security of the country.

Political and human rights activists **Henrique Luaty da Silva Beirão, Manuel Chivonde** (Nito Alves), **Nuno Álvaro Dala, Afonso Mahenda Matias** (Mbanza Hanza), **Nelson Dibango Mendes dos Santos, Itler Jessy Chivonde** (Itler Samussuko), **Albano Evaristo Bingocabingo, Sedrick Domingos de Carvalho, Fernando António Tomás** (Nicolas o Radical), **Arante Kivuvu Italiano Lopes, Benedito Jeremias, José Gomes Hata** (Cheick Hata) and **Inocêncio Antônio de Brito** were arrested by Angolan security forces on 20 June in the capital, Luanda. They were meeting peacefully to discuss politics and governance concerns under President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, who has been in power for the past 36 years. Some of the activists were not in the meeting, but were accused of being part of it. Angolan academic and journalist **Domingos da Cruz**, who was going to give a lecture during the meeting on 20 June, was also arrested on 21 June. On 24 June, **Oswaldo Sérgio Correia Caholo** was arrested too.

The country's Interior Ministry released a public statement on 20 June informing that the activists were detained while preparing to disrupt the country's public order and public security. Police forces have carried out searches without warrants and seized, computers, documents, and cameras from homes of some of the people they suspected of being involved with the meeting.

The whereabouts of Fernando Tomás and Oswaldo Caholo remain unknown. Afonso Matias was taken to the prison "cadeia de Caquila", in the province of Bengo. José Hata, Itler Chivonde, Albano Bingo, Nelson dos Santos, Nuno Dala and Benedito Jeremias are at the prison "Comarca central de Luanda". The other activists are detained at the prison "cadeia de Calomboloca", in Icolo e Bengo, a municipality 70km from Luanda. A decree by the Attorney General's Office imposed an isolation regime on the activists from 26 June which prevents them from having contact with their lawyers and family and friends for a period of 10 days.

Please write immediately in English, Portuguese or your own language:

- Urging the authorities to immediately disclose the whereabouts of Fernando Tomás and Oswaldo Caholo;
- Calling on the Angolan authorities to release the 15 activists immediately and unconditionally and return the seized technological equipment;
- Calling on them to ensure the 15 activists are not subjected to torture or other ill-treatment and have immediate access to lawyers of their choice and contact with family and friends;
- Urging them to end the practice of arbitrary arrests, harassment and intimidation of activists, and uphold the right to freedom of association, assembly and expression.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 14 AUGUST 2015 TO:

Minister of Justice and Human Rights
Rui Jorge Carneiro Manguera
Ministry of Justice and Human Rights
Rua 17 Setembro, No. 32
CP 1986
Luanda
Republic of Angola

Salutation: A sua Excelencia

General Prosecutor of Angola
João Maria Moreira de Sousa
Office of the General Prosecutor
Rua 17 Setembro
Largo do Amor, Vila Alice
Luanda
Republic of Angola

Salutation: Exmo Dr.

And copies to:

Amnesty International – Southern Africa
Regional Office
3 on Glenhove,
Melrose Estate,
Rosebank,
Johannesburg, 2196
South Africa

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:

Name Address 1 Address 2 Address 3 Fax Fax number Email Email address Salutation Salutation

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Dissent is frequently dealt with repressively, and often violently, by the Angolan authorities. Amnesty International has documented how the freedom of expression and peaceful assembly have been unlawfully restricted in Angola in its report *Punishing Dissent: Suppression of Freedom of Association and Assembly in Angola* (Index AFR 12/004/2014).

Some of those who have challenged the government of President José Eduardo dos Santos have been subjected to extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention and torture. Despite freedom of expression and peaceful assembly being clearly enshrined in the country's constitution and in several international treaties that Angola has signed and ratified, violations of these rights continue to occur.

Names: Henrique Luaty da Silva Beirão, Manuel Chivonde (Nito Alves), Nuno Álvaro Dala, Afonso Mahenda Matias (Mbanza Hanza), Nelson Dibango Mendes dos Santos, Itler Jessy Chivonde (Itler Samussuko), Albano Evaristo Bingocabingo, Sedrick Domingos de Carvalho, Fernando António Tomás (Nicolas o Radical), Arante Kivuvu Italiano Lopes, Benedito Jeremias, José Gomes Hata (Cheick Hata), Inocêncio António de Brito, Osvaldo Sérgio Correia Caholo and Domingos da Cruz.

Gender m/f: all male

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