

URGENT ACTION

COURT DROPS CASE AGAINST HUMAN RIGHTS LAWYER

The Cabinda Provincial Tribunal dismissed the criminal charges against human rights lawyer Arão Bula Tempo on 12 July.

The Cabinda Provincial Tribunal on 12 July dismissed the criminal charges against human rights lawyer **Arão Bula Tempo** concluding that there was not enough evidence to indict him. After acknowledging the Tribunal's decision, Arão Bula Tempo shared his gratitude with Amnesty International's Lusophone team: "Even though Cabinda is still marked by persecution and several human rights violations, I express my feeling of deep gratitude to those who participated in actions, signed petitions and somehow contributed to my freedom. I will continue to defend human rights. I deeply appreciate the work of Amnesty International."

During the course of his arrest, detention, conditional release and trial, Arão Bula Tempo's health deteriorated. His career as a practicing lawyer also took a hit as he lost clients due to the reputational damage caused by the criminal charges brought against him.

Arão Bula Tempo was arrested on 14 March 2015 and conditionally released two months later. He was charged with "attempted collaboration with foreigners to constrain the Angolan state" and "rebellion", both categorized as crimes against the security of the state. The charges were based on allegations that Arão Bula Tempo had invited foreign journalists from the Republic of Congo to cover a peaceful protest against bad governance in Cabinda Province, Angola, that was being planned by human rights defender José Marcos Mavungo on the same day.

No further action is requested of the UA network. Many thanks to those who sent appeals.

This is the seventh update of UA 78/15. Further information: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr12/4180/2016/en/>

Name: Arão Bula Tempo

Gender m/f: m

Further information on UA: 78/15 Index: AFR 12/4471/2016 Issue Date: 19 July 2016

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