

PUBLIC

AI Index: AFR 12/001/2003

14 January 2003

Further Information on UA 361/02 (AFR 12/004/2002, 13 December 2002) - Arbitrary detention/Fear for safety/Fear of torture/Incommunicado detention

ANGOLA

João Gime (m), oil company worker,
Ivo Macaia (m), aged 44, storekeeper,
Estevão Buanje (m), aged about 30,
Antonio 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

According to reports, Ivo Macaia was taken by military police to the village of Prata where he was held for five days in a hole. It was raining heavily and the water came up to his neck. Military police, apparently suspecting him of being a civilian representative of one of the armed factions of the *Frente para a Libertação do Enclave de Cabinda* (FLEC), Cabinda Enclave Liberation Front, had interrogated him about FLEC's military locations.

On 24 December 2002, Ivo Macaia was taken to his home by three military police officers who searched his house. He was allowed two hours to speak to his wife, under military police guard before being taken away by the officers to an unknown location. He was reportedly very thin and weak. Ivo Macaia has been arrested since 30 November 2002 and apparently remains in incommunicado military custody.

João Gime, who had worked at the same oil company as Ivo Macaia, was released and then re-arrested by the military police. Both men's current whereabouts and state of health are not known. Amnesty International has received no further information about the other six men named above and is still extremely concerned about their safety.

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

- expressing concern about the continuing arbitrary and incommunicado detention of Ivo Macaia, João Gime, Estevão Buanje, Antonio Mambo Tigre, Lourenço Gomes Pitra, Buingi, Bento Banto and Daniel;
- expressing concern about the reported torture of Ivo Macaia;
- calling for a full and impartial investigation into the allegations of torture and ill-treatment, with the results made public and those responsible brought to justice;
- calling for the detainees to be brought before a court immediately so that a judge may determine whether there may be grounds to try them on recognizably criminal charges or else order their release;
- urging that an independent commission of inquiry be sent to Cabinda without delay to inspect all premises where prisoners are being held with a view to ensuring that all detainees are held in accordance with the law and with international human rights standards;
- requesting thorough and independent inquiries into all reports of human rights violations in Cabinda with a view to bringing suspected perpetrators to justice.

APPEALS TO:

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
Osvaldo de Jesus Serra Van Dunem
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 25 February 2003.