

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Arbitrary killings

11 September 1992

ANGOLA:

Teresa Mzovo, female  
Pascoal Pitra, oil company employee  
Pedro Mbachí Ngimbi, youth  
Plácido Tati  
and others

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Amnesty International is concerned at continuing reports of the arbitrary killing of civilians by government soldiers, which began on 4 September 1992, in Cabinda, an Angolan enclave between the Republics of Zaire and the Congo. The organization is also concerned that the government is not known to have taken steps to control the soldiers and prevent further killings.

Government soldiers reportedly embarked on a wave of violence in Cabinda on 4 September 1992. At least six people have been shot dead and others were injured. It reportedly started after two soldiers were killed in an attack by one of the armed factions of the Frente para a Libertação do Enclave de Cabinda (FLEC), Cabinda Enclave Liberation Front, near Dinge in the central part of Cabinda. According to reports the soldiers are in revolt because they have not been demobilized - unlike soldiers in the rest of Angola who are being stood down under the terms of the May 1991 Peace Accords for Angola - and because they have not received full rations or pay for several months. They have been attacking government installations and local firms, driving around in stolen cars shooting indiscriminately at civilians and burning houses. They took seven civilians prisoner on 7 September 1992, but released three of them two days later. They also reportedly captured four United Nations peace monitors on 10 September 1992, but released them later the same day.

Teresa Mzovo, Pascoal Pitra and Pedro Mbachí Ngimbi were killed and three others, Alfredo Maria, Maria Jesus Jorge and Augusto Mbachí, were injured near Malembo, a coastal town in the central part of Cabinda, on 7 September. Two women were killed near Cabinda City: one was sweeping the doorstep of her house as soldiers passed, firing wildly; the other was killed in the village of Bichiekete. Plácido Tati was shot at a place seven kilometres from the town of Landana on the coast to the north of Malembo. His body was reportedly burned and displayed to local people.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Tension in Cabinda has increased markedly over the last few months as Angola prepares for general elections provided for under the Peace Accords for Angola of May 1991, which are being monitored by the United Nations Angola Verification Mission. The Cabindan separatist groups were not involved in the peace accords which ended the 16-year war between the government and the União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola (UNITA), National Union for the Total Independence of Angola. Government attempts to negotiate with representatives of the Cabindan separatist groups have not been successful and few Cabindans have registered to vote in the elections.

The armed FLEC factions have attacked government installations and committed abuses including the abduction of foreigners working in Cabinda and the killing of their suspected opponents. One faction, *FLEC Renovada*, Renewed FLEC, is reported to have decapitated a suspected government supporter on 28 August 1992 and mounted the head on a pole at the side of the road linking Cabinda City to the village of Tando-Zinze. In attempts to counter FLEC attacks the Angolan police and security forces have themselves been guilty of serious human rights violations including the arbitrary arrest and killing of suspected FLEC supporters, but the government has failed to ensure that those guilty of abuses are brought to justice.

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Angola became a party to the African Charter for Human and Peoples' Rights in October 1990 and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in January 1992. In late August 1992 it changed the country's name from People's Republic of Angola to Republic of Angola.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes and airmail letters either in Portuguese or in your own language:**

- expressing concern about the reported killing of the four people named above and other civilians by undisciplined troops in Cabinda;
- expressing concern that reports indicate that the arbitrary killings are continuing and urge that immediate steps be taken to bring the soldiers under control, to inquire into soldiers' grievances and ensure that they abide by international standards concerning the conduct of law enforcement officials;
- urge that full judicial inquiries are held into the deaths so that those responsible may be brought to justice and the victims compensated.

**APPEALS TO**

1) President of the Republic

Sua Excelência  
José Eduardo dos Santos  
Gabinete da Presidência da República  
Palácio do Povo  
Luanda  
República de Angola  
**Telegrams: Presidente da Republica, Luanda,  
Angola**  
**Telexes: 3072 lugol an, or 3345 gab pres an**  
**Salutation: Sua Excelência/Your Excellency**

2) Minister of Defence

Sua Excelência  
Pedro Maria Tonha "Pedalé"  
Ministro da Defesa  
Rua Silva Carvalho  
Luanda  
República de Angola  
**Telegrams: Ministro de Defesa, Luanda  
Angola**  
**Telexes: 3138 def an**  
**Salutation: Sua Excelência/Your  
Excellency]**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

Provincial Governor  
Augusto da Silva Tomás  
Governador Provincial de Cabinda  
Gabinete do Governador Provincial de Cabinda  
Cabinda  
República de Angola

and 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 30 September 1992.