

MANUEL CHIVONDE NITO ALVES

ANGOLA

FREE NITO ALVES

PLEASE HELP

MANUEL CHIVONDE NITO ALVES



Nito Alves, 2012

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Seventeen year old Manuel Chivonde Nito Alves (better known as Nito Alves) is a prisoner of conscience who was arrested for peacefully exercising his right to freedom of expression.

Nito Alves was arrested by the police at about 10 am on 12 September 2013, in Viana municipality in Angola's capital, Luanda. He was arrested after collecting T-shirts which he had ordered to be printed with slogans against the Angolan president. The T-shirts were expected to be worn by individuals at a demonstration organized by a group of young people known as the Movimento Revolucionário Angolano- MRA (Angolan Revolutionary Movement) for the following week, on 19 September in Luanda. The slogans on the T-shirts read "Out disgusting dictator" (Fora, Ditador Nojento) on the front and at the back "When war is necessary and urgent" (Quando a guerra é necessária e urgente) in reference to the title of a book published in Angola in 2011, which called on young Angolans to participate more fully in public life.

Nito Alves was arrested without a warrant and taken to an empty house in a field where he was interrogated. Later in the day, he was taken to the police station in Viana and the next day he was transferred to the Direção Provincial da Investigação Criminal – DPIC (Directorate of Criminal Investigation) in Luanda. He was held incommunicado for about three weeks. It was not until 6 October that he was able to speak to his lawyer and family in private. He was then transferred to the Central Prison in Luanda (Comarca Central de Luanda) where he is being held in a cell with nine adults, in violation of Angolan and international human rights law. He now receives weekly visits by his family.

Conditions at the Comarca Central Prison are bad: hygiene and sanitation is very poor and there is no drinking water which, together with the food, is provided by his family. Because of these conditions, Nito Alves often complains of vomiting and diarrhoea as well as severe headaches and bouts of malaria but he has not received medical treatment for these ailments.

Nito Alves has not been formally charged. Initially he was accused of defamation against the president on the basis of the writing on the T-shirts, an accusation that was later changed to insult (ultraje) of the President, which is punished under Article 25 of the 2010 law on crimes against the state with up to three years' imprisonment. This is the first time that this article is being used.

ACT NOW

WRITE POLITELY TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC:

- Calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Nito Alves, who was arrested and detained for peacefully exercising his right to freedom of expression.
- Expressing concern about the arbitrary arrest and continued detention of 17-year old Nito Alves accused of insulting the President of the Republic and held without charge for over a month in contravention of Angolan law and international human rights law and standards.
- Expressing further concern at his detention in a cell with adults, in violation of the law and that he is not receiving medical treatment for his ailments.

Send your letters to:

President José Eduardo dos Santos
Gabinete do Presidente da República
Palácio do Povo
Luanda
República de Angola
Fax: +244 222 331 885/ 331 898/ 391 476/ 392 733/ 339 855

Salutation: Excellency

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