

URGENT ACTION

PROTECT THREE JAILED HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

On 12 May 2026, human rights defenders Jaime Domingos Chimbamba Mussinda, Edgar Cláudio and João Luanda were arrested and taken by police to the ex-Controllo do Benfica police station in Luanda, Angola's capital. At the time of their arrest, the three were documenting violations against women informal sellers, known in Angola as zungueiras. The three were subsequently held at the police station for five hours without clear information on the grounds for their detention before being released without charge. The Angolan authorities must immediately launch an investigation into their arbitrary detention and ensure they are protected from further intimidation, harassment or reprisals for their human rights work.

TAKE ACTION: WRITE AN APPEAL IN YOUR OWN WORDS OR USE THIS MODEL LETTER

Prosecutor General of the Republic

Pedro Mendes de Carvalho

Rua 17 de Setembro

Cidade Alta, Luanda, Angola

Email: procuradoriageraldarepublica@pgr.ao and csmmp@pgr.ao

Dear Prosecutor General,

I am writing to express my deep concern about the arbitrary detention and safety of three human rights defenders, Jaime Domingos Chimbamba Mussinda, (known as **Jaime MC**), **Edgar Cláudio** and **João Luanda**.

Jaime MC is the National Coordinator of the Legal Team and Victims Support Committee of Movimento Cívico Mudei, an Angolan civil society movement that documents human rights violations and supports victims seeking accountability. Edgar Cláudio and João Luanda are members of the movement's communication team. On 12 May, the three were in Benfica, a neighbourhood in Luanda province, documenting human rights violations against women informal sellers (known in Angola as zungueiras) following several complaints about abuses by the women during inspection operations. Their work focused on reports that goods seized from women informal sellers were being taken without proper records, seizure notices or other formal documentation. While the three were carrying out this documentation work, an unidentified man - allegedly linked to the Benfica inspection services - seized Jaime MC's phone and assaulted Edgar Cláudio, punching and slapping him several times. Instead of taking the aggressor to the police station, police officers who were present at the scene arrested the three men and took them to ex-Controllo do Benfica police station in Luanda. The three were held for five hours at the station and reportedly subjected to psychological pressure and abusive questioning. Videos and photographs recorded by Edgar Cláudio and João Luanda that day of their work with the zungueiras, which could have served as evidence of the incident, were also reportedly deleted from their phones. The three were released on the same day, without being presented with any charges, formal process or clear explanation for their arrest.

Jaime MC, Edgar Cláudio and João Luanda's arbitrary arrest and detention, together with the assault against Edgar Cláudio, raise serious concerns about the intimidation and criminalization of human rights defenders in Angola for their work. Amnesty International remains concerned for the three men's safety and potential risk of re-arrest and targeting for their human rights work.

I urge you to take all necessary steps to ensure Jaime Mussinda, Edgar Cláudio and João Luanda are protected from future intimidation, harassment, reprisals and/or arbitrary arrest, detention and prosecution in connection with their legitimate human rights work. I also urge you to ensure a prompt, thorough, independent, impartial and effective investigation into the assault against Edgar Cláudio and the arbitrary detention of Jaime Mussinda, Edgar Cláudio and João Luanda, with those responsible held accountable.

Yours sincerely,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Women informal sellers in Angola, commonly known as zungueiras, have repeatedly [reported](#) abuse during police and inspection operations, including harassment, violence, seizure of goods, intimidation and degrading treatment. These concerns are not isolated. In 2023, about 400 women zungueiras [gathered](#) in Luanda to protest the reorganization of informal street markets and were met by police with dogs, tear gas and batons, leaving protesters and bystanders injured. This context makes the work of human rights defenders especially important.

PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET: Portuguese

You can also write in your own language.

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: 26 November 2026

Please check with the Amnesty office in your country if you wish to send appeals after the deadline.

NAME AND PRONOUN: Jaime Domingos Chimbamba Mussinda, Edgar Cláudio, João Luanda (All he/him)