

URGENT ACTION

ACTIVISTS SENTENCED, HEALTH CONCERN FOR TWO
Seventeen Angolan youth activists have been sentenced to jail terms of between 2 years and 8 years six months. They are all in prison, except for Nuno Dala who is on hunger strike and in hospital.

Seventeen youth activists who were on trial for 'preparatory acts of rebellion' and 'criminal conspiracy' were sentenced on 28 March and sent to prison immediately. **Domingos da Cruz** was sentenced to 8 years and 6 months; **Henrique Luaty da Silva Beirao** to 5 years and 6 months; **Nuno Alvaro Dala**, **Sedrick de Carvalho**, **Manuel Chivonde "Nito Alves"**, **Inocência de Brito**, **Laurinda Gouveia**, **Fernando António Tomás "Nicola"**, **Afonso Matias "Mbanza Hamza"**, **Osvaldo Caholo**, **Arante Kivuvu**, **Albano Evaristo Bingobingo**, **Nelson Dibango**, **Hitler Jessy Chivonde** and **José Gomes Hata** to 4 years and 6 months; and **Rosa Conde** and **Benedito Jeremias** to 2 years and 3 months in prison. They were all fined 50,000 kwanzas or approximately 300 US dollars for court costs. Their lawyers will be appealing this decision.

Nuno Alvaro Dala has been on hunger strike since 10 March and has had to be hospitalised at Hospital São Paulo. He is only ingesting water, juice and tea. His health is deteriorating. He claims not to have access to his bank savings which are meant to support his family, including a 10 month old daughter, and the results of his medical exams carried out in hospital. Manuel Chivonde "Nito Alves" is critically ill experiencing high fever and diarrhoea. He urgently needs access to quality health care and assistance.

Amnesty International considers the 17 youth activists to be prisoners of conscience as their trial was politically motivated and they have been sentenced solely for peacefully exercising their rights to freedom of expression and assembly.

Please write immediately in Portuguese, English or your own language:

- Calling on the Angolan authorities to immediately and unconditionally release the 17 activists, as they are prisoners of conscience imprisoned solely for the peaceful exercise of their rights;
- Calling on them to quash the conviction of the 17 activists and drop all the charges against them;
- Urging them to ensure that all of them have access to a qualified health professional providing health care in accordance with their wishes especially Nuno Dala, who is on hunger strike and Nito Alves who urgently needs quality health care;
- Urging them to end the practice of arbitrary arrests, harassment and intimidation of activists and other human rights defenders, and to uphold the rights to freedom of association, peaceful assembly and expression.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 13 MAY 2016 TO:

Minister of Justice and Human Rights

Rui Jorge Carneiro Mangureira
 Ministry of Justice and Human Rights
 Rua 17 Setembro, No. 32
 CP 1986
 Luanda, Republic of Angola
 Email: rui.mangureira@minjus.gov.ao
 Fax: +244 222 330 327

Salutation: Your Excellency

And Copies to:

Director
 Ana Celeste Januario
 National Center of Human Rights
 Republic of Angola
 Email: ana.januario@minjusdh.gov.ao
 and celestejanuario5@yahoo.com
 Fax: +244 222 333 407

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. HIS EXCELLENCY MR MIGUEL GASPAR FERNANDES NETO, Embassy of the Republic of Angola, 22 Dorset Street W1U 6QY, 020 7299 9850, Fax 020 7486 9397 Email embassy@angola.org.uk
 Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the fifth update of UA 143/15. Further information: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr12/3218/2016/en/>

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Angolan security forces arrested and detained the 15 activists between 20 and 24 June 2015 in Luanda after they had attended a meeting to discuss politics and governance concerns in the country. Two other female activists were charged alongside them but had not been detained initially. They are all currently in prison serving their sentences.

In his final remarks in court, the Public Prosecutor dropped an additional charge for illegal change of name against Manuel Chivonde "Nito Alves".

Luaty Beirão was also convicted and sentenced for falsification of documents. Osvaldo Caholo has also been charged with theft of documents (penalty: 2-8 years imprisonment and a fine) and his trial will be in the Military Court.

Another activist, Francisco Mapanda (Dago Nível Intelecto), was following the sentencing and said out loud that "the trial was a farce". The judge then opened a separate proceeding against Francisco on the same day. He was convicted for contempt of court (desacato) and sentenced to eight months in prison.

Name: Henrique Luaty da Silva Beirão, Manuel Chivonde (Nito Alves), Nuno Álvaro Dala, Afonso MahendaMatias (Mbanza Hanza), Nelson Dibango Mendes dos Santos, Hitler Jessy Chivonde (Hitler Samussuko), Albano Evaristo Bingobingo, Sedrick Domingos de Carvalho, Fernando António Tomás (Nicolas o Radical), Arante Kivuvu Italiano Lopes, Benedito Jeremias, José Gomes Hata (Cheick Hata), Inocência António de Brito, Osvaldo Sérgio Correia Caholo, Domingos da Cruz, Laurinda Gouveia and Rosa Conde.

Gender m/f: both

Further information on UA: 143/15 Index: AFR 12/3745/2016 Issue Date: 1 April 2016