

URGENT ACTION

JAILED YOUTH ACTIVISTS APPEAL THEIR SENTENCE

The lawyers for the 17 youth activists sentenced to jail terms of between 2 years and 8 years, six months have lodged an appeal at the Supreme Court and a *habeas corpus* before the Constitutional Court. Nuno Alvaro Dala ended his hunger strike after 36 days and is at a private clinic. His family remains without access to his bank savings.

17 Angolan youth activists through their lawyers have lodged an appeal at the Supreme Court and a *habeas corpus* before the Constitutional Court that have yet to be heard. The 17, except for Nuno Alvaro Dala are in Viana prison having been sentenced to between 2 years and 8 years, 6 months in prison and fined 50,000 kwanzas or approximately 300 US dollars for court costs on 28 March.

Nuno Alvaro Dala ended his hunger strike on 14 April after 36 days. He was transferred to a private clinic, Clínica Girassol (the same one Luaty Beirão had been transferred while on hunger strike in 2015), on 13 April. He is still hospitalised as he is recovering from the 36 day hunger strike during which he was only ingesting liquids. His family still does not have access to his bank savings and are facing severe economic constraints. He claims that prison officials have only returned two out of his nine credit cards and these have expired thus cannot be used.

Nito Alves was diagnosed with malaria while in Viana Prison. According to sources, prison officials did not provide him with medicine, but his family was allowed to bring it to him. He is now feeling better.

Amnesty International considers the 17 Angolan 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 peaceful assembly.

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

- Calling on the Angolan authorities to immediately and unconditionally release the 17 Angolan youth activists, as they are prisoners of conscience imprisoned solely for the peaceful exercise of their human rights;
- Calling on them to quash the conviction of the 17 Angolan youth activists and drop all the charges against them;
- Calling on them to allow Nuno Alvaro Dala's authorised representatives access to his bank accounts as this is Nuno's property and the government cannot deny his authorised representatives access to it without a legal basis or justification;
- Urging them to end the practice of arbitrary arrests, harassment and intimidation of activists and other human rights defenders, and to fully uphold the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 3 JUNE 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, Email embassy@angola.org.uk, press@angola.org.uk
Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the sixth update of UA 143/15. Further information: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr12/3745/2016/en/>

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The 17 Angolan youth activists were tried for 'preparatory acts of rebellion' and 'criminal conspiracy'. Angolan security forces arrested and detained 15 of the 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 and stood trial alongside them but had not been detained initially. All 17 except for Nuno Alvaro Dala are in Viana Prison.

Name: Henrique Luaty da Silva Beirão, Manuel Chivonde (Nito Alves), Nuno Álvaro Dala, Afonso Matias (Mbanza Hanza), Nelson Dibango Mendes dos Santos, Hitler Jessy Chivonde (Hitler Samussuko), Albano Evaristo Bingobingo, Sedrick de Carvalho, Fernando António Tomás (Nicolas o Radical), Arante Kivuvu Italiano Lopes, Benedito Jeremias, José Gomes Hata (Cheick Hata), Inocêncio 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 12/3880/2016 Issue Date: 22 April 2016