

URGENT ACTION

DETAINED ACTIVIST BEATEN BY PRISON OFFICIALS

Angolan youth activist, Francisco Mapanda, was transferred from Comarca de Viana prison to Comarca de Caquila prison on 3 September. He was beaten by prison officials for asking that his family be informed of the prison transfer before he agreed to it.

Francisco Mapanda was informed by prison officials on 3 September that he would be transferred from the Comarca de Viana prison to the Comarca de Caquila prison. The justification provided by a prison official was that “his friends were causing confusion outside the prison”. The youth activist requested the prison officials to notify his family of his impending transfer before he could agree to pack his belongings and leave. Following this request, the prison officials said he had no right to inform his family and beat him up.

Upon his arrival at the Comarca de Caquila prison, Francisco Mapanda started a hunger strike demanding that his family be notified of his whereabouts. He ended his hunger strike after three days, on 6 September, when his mother visited him and brought him a meal. His mother has stated that Comarca de Caquila prison is much further than the previous prison which imposes a serious burden on her and other relatives and friends wanting to visit Francisco Mapanda. He is serving an eight month prison sentence.

“The confusion” which the prison official was referring to were the peaceful demonstrations that were being staged by Francisco Mapanda’s fellow activists for a week in front of Comarca de Viana prison. They were demanding for his release. Also, on the morning of 3 September a group of eight people - including Luaty Beirão, Nuno Álvaro Dala, Laurinda Gouveia and Rosa Conde, all members of the group known as the Angolan17 – were denied access to visit Francisco Mapanda. Five of them were handcuffed, beaten and taken to the Central Police Unit in Viana (Comando de Divisão da Polícia Nacional em Viana) after they inquired from the police officers about the reasons for the denial of the visit. They were released a few hours later without being charged.

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

- Calling on the Angolan authorities to quash the conviction against Francisco Mapanda and immediately and unconditionally release him as he is a prisoner of conscience, imprisoned and convicted solely for the peaceful exercise of his right to freedom of expression;
- Calling on them to ensure that, pending his release, he is not subjected to torture or other ill-treatment;
- Urging them to end the practice of arbitrary arrests, harassment and intimidation of activists, and uphold the right to freedom of association, assembly and expression.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 20 OCTOBER 2016 TO:

Minister of Justice and Human rights

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

And copies to:

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

Salutation: Your Excellency

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, press@angola.org.uk salutation: Your Excellency

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the first update of UA 164/16. Further information:

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr12/4439/2016/en/>

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Angolan youth activist **Francisco Mapanda** (also known as Dago Nível Intelecto) was in court on 28 March following the sentencing of 17 Angolan youth activists, known as the Angola17. During the proceedings, he said out loud that “the trial was a farce”. The judge immediately opened a separate proceeding against Francisco Mapanda, convicted him of contempt of court (desacato) and sentenced him to eight months in prison on the same day. He was immediately taken to Comarca de Viana Prison where he was serving his sentence until his transfer to Comarca de Caquila prison on 3 September.

Further information on UA: 164/16 Index: AFR 12/4784/2016 Issue Date: 8 September 2016