

TO: HEALTH PROFESSIONALS
FROM: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

APPEAL FOR ACTION

3RD UPDATE: HEALTH OF POLITICAL PRISONERS DETERIORATING IN ANGOLA

Five political prisoners and two detainees held at Kakanda prison in Lunda Norte province, Angola, are suffering from deteriorating health after finishing a 13-day-long hunger strike in protest against their continued detention. The conditions in which they are held have not improved, and they continue to be denied access to medical treatment, clean water, and adequate food supplies.

The seven men: **Sérgio Augusto; Sebastião Lumani; José Muteba; António Malendeca; Domingos Henrique Samujaia**, who were tried and convicted of crimes against the state at different times in 2010 and 2011, and two detainees, **Mário Muamuene** and **Domingos Capenda**, who were tried and acquitted on 8 March yet remain in prison, went on hunger strike from 16 to 29 May 2011. Their health has since continued to worsen owing to the persisting lack of sanitation, inadequate water provision and insufficient food supply- a cupful of rice once a day. These conditions place prisoners' lives at risk and amount to cruel, inhumane and degrading treatment.

Amnesty International is particularly concerned about Sebastião Lumani, José Muteba, António Malendeca and Augusto Sérgio, who are reportedly the weakest in the group and are suffering from other ailments. In addition, Sebastião Lumani and José Muteba have reportedly contracted typhoid and are too weak to stand or walk without assistance. Amnesty International is seriously concerned that their health will deteriorate further unless they are promptly given access to appropriate medical treatment.

PLEASE WRITE IMMEDIATELY in Portuguese or your own language:

- Explaining that you are a health professional concerned about human rights;
- Expressing concern at reports of the poor health status of Sérgio Augusto, Sebastião Lumani, José Muteba, António Malendeca, Domingos Henrique Samujaia, Mário Muamuene and Domingos Capenda, and of the failure of prison authorities to provide them with adequate medical treatment;
- Urging the Angolan authorities to ensure that all prisoners and detainees receive immediate access to all necessary medical care, including hospitalization, in accordance with provisions set out in the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners;
- Urging the authorities to improve the conditions at Kakanda Prison, including by ensuring the provision of adequate and regular food, potable water and adequate sanitary facilities;
- Calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Mário Muamuene and Domingos Capenda, who were acquitted of all charges in March 2011 by the Lunda Norte Provincial Court

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 31 August 2011 TO:Minister of Justice

Sua Excelência Guilhermina
 Contreiras da Costa Prata
 Ministra da Justiça
 Ministério da Justiça
 Rua 17 Setembro
 Luanda
 República de Angola
 Fax: +244 222 339914/ 330
 327
 Salutation: Excelência

Minister of Health

Sua Excelência José Vieira Dias
 Van-Dúnem

Ministro da Saúde
 Ministério da Saúde
 Rua 17 Setembro
 Luanda
 República de Angola
 Email: geral@minsa.gov.ao
 Salutation: Excelência

Provincial Governor

Sua Excelência Ernesto
 Muangala
 Governador Provincial
 Sede do Governo da Província
 Dundo
 Lunda Norte

Angola

Fax: +244 252 640 12/645 53

Email: govlunda-norte@hotmail.comSalutation: Excelência**Copies to:**

Luanda

Please also send copies to diplomatic representatives of the Angolan Government accredited to your country. Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

IF YOU RECEIVE NO REPLY WITHIN SIX WEEKS OF SENDING YOUR LETTER, PLEASE SEND A FOLLOW-UP LETTER SEEKING A RESPONSE. PLEASE SEND COPIES OF ANY LETTERS YOU RECEIVE TO THE INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT, ATTENTION OF THE HEALTH AND DETENTION TEAM, 1 EASTON STREET, LONDON WC1X 0DW OR E-MAIL: health@amnesty.org

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The seven men named above were part of a group of some 40 members of the *Comissão do Manifesto Jurídico Sociológico do Protectorado da Lunda Tchokwe* (Commission of the Legal Sociological Manifesto of Lunda Tchokwe Protectorate- CMJSP-Lunda) and were arrested at various times from April 2009 to October 2010. They were initially held at Conduege prison in Lunda Norte Province. On 7 February 2011 they were transferred to the newer Kakanda prison in Dundo, where conditions were initially better. However, the prison has become overcrowded; there is NO electricity; food and drinking water provision is scarce and there are no health facilities there.

On 17 March 2011, over 30 of the CMJSP-Lunda detainees were released following a petition of habeas corpus lodged by their lawyer. However the five convicted prisoners and the two detainees mentioned above were not among them.

Sérgio Augusto; Sebastião Lumani; José Muteba; António Malendeca; Domingos Henrique Samujaia, were tried and convicted of crimes against the state at different times in 2010 and 2011 and sentenced to prison terms ranging between three and six years.

This is the third update of AFR 12/002/2010 (27 January); AFR 12/10/2010 (11 August); and AFR 12/012/2010 (14 October)