

# URGENT ACTION

## HUMAN RIGHTS LAWYER RISKS 5-12 YEAR JAIL TERM

**Human rights lawyer Arão Bula Tempo has formally been charged with crimes against the security of the state in Angola.**

**Arão Bula Tempo**, a human rights lawyer, was formally charged with the crimes of attempted “collaboration with foreigners to constrain the Angolan state” (maximum penalty: 5 years imprisonment) and rebellion (maximum penalty: 12 years imprisonment) on 22 October. Both are categorized as crimes against the security of the state. He is accused of inviting foreign journalists from the Republic of Congo to cover a peaceful protest against bad governance in Cabinda Province, Angola, that was being planned by **José Marcos Mavungo**.

Both Arão Bula Tempo and José Marcos Mavungo were arrested on 14 March. While Arão Bula Tempo was conditionally released two months later, José Marcos Mavungo remained in detention charged with ‘rebellion’ for his involvement in organizing a peaceful demonstration and his alleged association with a group of unknown men found with explosives and flyers before the demonstration. He was sentenced to six years in jail on 14 September.

Amnesty International considers José Marcos Mavungo to be a prisoner of conscience. If Arão Bula Tempo is imprisoned, Amnesty International will consider him likewise to be a prisoner of conscience, detained solely because of his peaceful human rights work.

Arão Bula Tempo’s health has been deteriorating in recent months. He has stated that he does not feel safe receiving treatment in state-owned hospitals and urgently needs to seek health care outside Cabinda province. However, as a condition of his release he is not allowed to leave Cabinda without authorization from Angolan authorities. This is a violation of his right to freedom of movement, and amounts to a violation of his right to the highest attainable standard of health.

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

- Urging the Angolan authorities to immediately and unconditionally release José Marcos Mavungo, as he is a prisoner of conscience imprisoned solely for his work as a human rights activist;
- Calling on them to take steps to ensure that the conviction against José Marcos Mavungo is quashed;
- Calling on them to drop the charges against Arão Bula Tempo as they have been brought against him solely because of his human rights work;
- Urging them to lift the travel restrictions on Arão Bula Tempo to enable him to exercise his right of freedom of movement and to seek the health care he needs.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 16 DECEMBER 2015 TO:**

General Sub-Prosecutor in Cabinda

Antonio Nito  
Tribunal Provincial de Cabinda  
Largo Pedro Bengé  
Cabinda – Republic of Angola  
Phone: + 244 926 879 188 or +244 913 190 648  
Email: antonionito2012@yahoo.com.br  
**Salutation: Exmo. Dr.**

General Prosecutor of Angola

João Maria Moreira de Sousa  
Office of the General Prosecutor  
Rua 17 de Setembro  
Largo do Amor, Vila Alice  
Luanda – Republic of Angola  
**Salutation: Exmo. Dr.**

Minister of Justice and Human Rights

Rui Jorge Carneiro Manguêira  
Ministry of Justice and Human Rights  
Rua 17 de Setembro, nº 32  
CP 1986  
Luanda – Republic of Angola  
**Salutation: A Sua Excelência**

**Also send copies to:**

Ambassador Mr. Agostinho Tavares da Silva Neto, Embassy of the Republic of Angola  
2100-2108 16th St NW, Washington DC 20009  
Phone: 1 202 785 1156 | FAX: 202.822.9049 | E-mail: sec@angola.org

**Please let us know if you took action so that we can track our impact! EITHER send a short email to [uan@aiusa.org](mailto:uan@aiusa.org) with “UA 78/15” in the subject line, and include in the body of the email the number of letters and/or emails you sent, OR fill out this [short online form](#) to let us know how you took action. Thank you for taking action! Please check with the AIUSA Urgent Action Office if taking action after the appeals date. This is the fifth update of UA 78/15. Further information: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr12/2506/2015/en/>**

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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Manuel Biongo, Arão Bula Tempo's client, was arrested alongside him on 14 March. He was conditionally released on the same day as Arão Tempo and was also formally charged on 22 October with attempted "collaboration with foreigners to constrain the Angolan state". He faces up to 5 years in jail.

Dissent in Angola is frequently dealt with repressively, and often violently, by the authorities. Amnesty International has documented how the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly have been unlawfully restricted in Angola in its report *Punishing Dissent: Suppression of Freedom of Association and Assembly in Angola* (<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr12/004/2014/en/>).

Some of those who have challenged the government of President José Eduardo dos Santos have been subjected to enforced disappearance, extrajudicial execution, arbitrary detention, and torture and other ill-treatment. Freedoms of expression, association and peaceful assembly are clearly enshrined in Angola's constitution and several international treaties that the country has ratified, but violations of these rights continue.

Names: José Marcos Mavungo, Arão Bula Tempo  
Gender m/f: m

Further information on UA: 78/15 Index: AFR 12/2789/2015 Issue Date: 4 November 2015