

URGENT ACTION

DROP CASE AND RESTRICTIONS AGAINST ACTIVIST

Serrote José de Oliveira, also known as General Nila, was released on July 23, 2026 after spending almost one year in pretrial detention, however, proceedings and restrictions against him remain in place. Arrested on July 28, 2025 while livestreaming on TikTok during a taxi driver's strike, a plain clothed officer fired several shots at him. Two bullets struck his leg, and one remains lodged in his body. Despite a judicial order, he has not received adequate medical care. The authorities have not identified any unlawful act committed by him nor justified the shooting. They must immediately drop the case, lift restrictions, ensure treatment, and provide him with access to justice and effective remedies. Authorities must also thoroughly and effectively investigate the shooting.

TAKE ACTION:

- Write a letter to the government official(s) listed. Use the sample letter below as a guide or use your own words.
- [Click here](#) to report your action(s) on **Third UA 75.25**. We share this number with the officials we are trying to persuade.

Minister of Justice and Human Rights

Marcy Cláudio Lopes

Casarão da Justiça, Rua 17 de Setembro

Gombota, Luanda, LU, Angola

E-mail: dndh.mjdh.angola@gmail.com

Send a copy of your letter to the address below

CC: Angolan Embassy in the United States

Ambassador Agostinho Van-Dúnem

2108 16th Street, NW

Washington, DC 20009

Email: info@angola.org

Dear Minister of Justice and Human Rights,

I am concerned about **Serrote José de Oliveira**, also known as **General Nila**, an activist and leader of the UNTRA Movement (National Union for the Total Revolution of Angola). General Nila was arrested on July 28, 2025 while on his way to visit a relative in hospital. He was livestreaming on TikTok and encouraging people to stay at home during the taxi driver's strike.

Witness accounts, later corroborated by General Nila, indicate that two men in plain clothes, believed to be linked to the Criminal Investigation Service, approached him and fired multiple shots at his legs. Two bullets struck him. One passed through his body, while the other remains lodged in his body to this day. Despite a judicial order for his transfer to a prison hospital, he did not receive adequate specialized medical care.

While I was relieved to learn that he was released on July 23, 2026, after the Luanda Court of Appeal concluded that the legal requirements for his detention had not been met, it is distressing to learn that proceedings against him remain open. Furthermore, he faces imposing restrictions, such as having to report to the authorities every 15 days and being prohibited from leaving Angola.

I urge you to ensure that the criminal proceedings against General Nila are immediately discontinued and that all restrictions imposed on him are lifted. The authorities must not continue to misuse the criminal justice system to target and harass him for his activism. Authorities must also ensure that he receives appropriate medical care, and that a prompt and effective investigation is conducted into his shooting, with anyone suspected to be responsible brought to justice.

Yours sincerely,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

General Nila's release on July 23, 2026 did not bring the criminal proceedings against him to an end. It changed his status from pretrial detention to release subject to procedural restrictions. He is currently at home, but his health remains a serious concern. The bullet still lodged in his leg continues to cause pain and, at times, makes it difficult for him to move. He is currently using crutches while waiting for the authorities to lift the restrictions imposed on him, so that he can seek appropriate medical care in Angola or abroad and determine whether the bullet can be safely removed.

Civil society groups in Angola called for nationwide protests, beginning on July 12, 2025, in response to the government's decision to raise diesel prices by over 30%. These protests reflected widespread frustration over the rising cost of living and the growing economic pressures faced by people in Angola. On the first day of the protests (which took place on July 12), police cracked down on demonstrators - using unnecessary and excessive force- and [arrested](#) at least 12 people in Luanda.

Following this wave of mobilization, the Angola National Taxi Association (ANATA) [called](#) for a three-day strike starting on July 28, also in protest against the diesel price hike. The increase led to a 50% rise in minibus taxi fares, severely impacting on daily commuters who rely on this form of public transport. Violent clashes with police, acts of vandalism, and looting in different parts of Luanda were reported. On July 31, the Minister of Interior, Manuel Homem, [reported](#) the arrest of 1,214 people, 22 deaths, and 197 injured in two days of the strike.

Article 4 of Angola's Law on Crimes of Vandalism Against Public Property and Services, Law [13/24](#), provided for a sentence of five to ten years' imprisonment for anyone who destroyed public property or disrupted or prevented the provision of a public service.

On December 4, 2025, Angola's [Constitutional Court](#) declared Article 4 and several other provisions of the law unconstitutional with generally binding force, meaning that they could no longer lawfully be applied by any court or public authority. The Court found that Article 4 imposed the same severe sentencing range on conduct of widely differing gravity and failed to distinguish clearly between unlawful disruption and conduct protected under the rights to strike and peaceful assembly. It held that the provision violated constitutional principles including proportionality, human dignity and the rule of law.

On March 25, 2026, Angola's Council of Ministers [considered](#) a revised bill intended to bring the legislation into conformity with the Constitutional Court's judgment and approved its submission to the National Assembly. Parliament debated and [approved](#) the bill in general terms on May 21, 2026.

PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET: Portuguese, English, or your own language.

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: February 7, 2027

NAME AND PRONOUN: Serrote José de Oliveira (He/Him)

LINK TO PREVIOUS UA: <https://www.amnestyusa.org/urgent-actions/angola-activist-shot-and-held-in-arbitrary-detention/>