

# URGENT ACTION

## 4 ACTIVISTS SENTENCED FOR SOLIDARITY PROTEST

On September 16, four activists- Adolfo Campos, Abraão Pedro Santos, Gilson Morreira, and Hermenegildo Victor José - were arrested hours before taking part in a demonstration in solidarity with motorcycle taxi drivers in Luanda, capital city of Angola. On September 19, they were summarily tried, convicted, and sentenced to 2 years and 5 months in prison, for 'disobedience and resisting orders', although no evidence was presented in court. Their conviction and sentence stem from the peaceful exercise of their human rights. They must be immediately released.

### TAKE ACTION:

- Write a letter in your own words or using the sample below as a guide to one or both government officials listed. You can also email, fax, call or Tweet them.
- [Click here](#) to let us know the actions you took on **Urgent Action 115.23**. It's important to report because we share the total number with the officials we are trying to persuade and the people we are trying to help.

### 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](mailto:dndh.mjdh.angola@gmail.com)

### Embassy of Angola in the United States

**Ambassador Augustine Van-Dúnem**

2100 16th St NW, Washington, DC 20009

Email: [info@angola.org](mailto:info@angola.org)

Dear Minister,

I am concerned about the arbitrary detention and conviction of four activists, **Adolfo Campos, Gilson Morreira (AKA Tanaice Neutro), Hermenegildo Victor José (AKA Gildo das Ruas), and Abraão Pedro Santos (AKA O filho da revolução\_pensador)**, solely for exercising their human rights. On September 16, the four activists were due to take part in a peaceful demonstration in solidarity with motorcycle taxi drivers in Luanda, Angola's capital. The police, without a warrant, arrested the four activists before it was due to start. On September 19, the court sentenced them to 2 years and 5 months in prison.

Since their arrest, the penitentiary service has repeatedly prevented the activists' wives from delivering food. In protest, Adolfo Campos and Abraão went on hunger strike in the first two weeks of imprisonment. Since October 27, three of the activists are only allowed visits from their wives and lawyers. Adolfo Campos is being held in a cell with more than 100 other detainees where there are constant fights. Meanwhile, Adolfo Campos is losing his sight and has not received any medical treatment for it. Tanaice Neutro was due to have surgery in November, but it did not take place.

I demand that the four activists are immediately released, since their detention stems from the peaceful exercise of their rights. Pending their release, all barriers to deliver food to the activists must be removed and they must be allowed to receive visits from other members of their families. The activists must have access to all necessary healthcare and their detention conditions must comply with the Mandela Rules.

Yours sincerely,

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**Adolfo Miguel Campos André** (44) is an activist and leader of the Angolan Revolutionary Movement. Father of four children, he works as head of assets for a local newspaper in Luanda. His activism began in 2011, when, along with other young people, he started a movement against the regime of former president José Eduardo Dos Santos, who at the time had been in power for 32 years, marked by corruption scandals, social inequalities, and serious violations of human rights.

**Gildo das Ruas** (28) is an activist and member of the Malangina Resistance Movement. Father of two young daughters, Gildo das Ruas began attending demonstrations in 2014. In 2021, he was arbitrarily detained for 6 months in Malange province in connection to his peaceful activism.

**Abraão Pedro dos Santos** (37) is an activist and member of Sociedade Civil Constestatária Movement and leader of the Panterra Negra Revolutionary Movement. Father of two young children, Abraão Pedro dos Santos always showed up in peaceful demonstrations, for which he was arbitrarily detained several times, but this is the first time he has been convicted. On the day of the trial, when the judge announced the names of those who were sentenced, Abraão Pedro dos Santos' name was not mentioned – only Adolfo Campos, Tanaice Neutro and Gildo das Ruas' were. Moments later, after the judge left the courtroom, the court writer was sent back to the room to read the summary of the trial. That was when Abraão Pedro dos Santos's name was added to the charge sheet and he too was convicted.

**Tanaice Neutro** (36) is an activist who uses art to express his opinions on social problems such as poverty, inequalities, and corruption through Kuduro, an Angolan music type. In October 2022, Tanaice was sentenced to 15 months of suspended sentence for calling the president a clown. Since he refused to apologize to the president, even with a release order from the court, he was kept in prison beyond the terms of his sentence. He was finally released on 23 June 2023. He was only free for 2 months before his arrest with other three activists on 16 September 2023.

During the four activists' trial, one of the officers on duty of the day of the solidarity demonstration testified in court that the activists obeyed all orders given by the authorities, but even that was not enough to stop their conviction.

Amnesty International is concerned about the growing number of activists and human rights defenders being targeted by Angolan authorities, in clear violation of their rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly.

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

**PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL:** February 7, 2024

**NAME AND PRONOUN:** Adolfo Campos, Gilson Morreira (AKA Tanaice Neutro), Hermenegildo Victor José (AKA Gildo das Ruas), Abraão Pedro Santos (AKA O filho da revolução\_pensador) [All he/him/his]