

# URGENT ACTION

## TIKTOKER JAILED FOR CRITICIZING THE PRESIDENT

On August 13, Angolan TikToker, Ana da Silva Miguel (also known as Neth Nahara) was arrested in Luanda, capital city of Angola. On August 14, she was convicted to 6 months in prison for the crime of 'outrage against the state, its symbols, and bodies' for recording a live video on TikTok criticizing the president. Following an appeal by the public prosecutor on September 27, her 6 months sentence was increased to 2 years in prison. Since her arrest, Neth Nahara has been denied access to her daily medication, despite her complicated health condition. On December 3, she was hospitalized due to her deteriorating health. Her conviction and sentence stem from the peaceful exercise of her right to freedom of expression. Neth Nahara 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 117.23**. 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 writing to you to express concern about the arbitrary detention and conviction of **Ana da Silva Miguel (AKA Neth Nahara)**, solely for peacefully exercising her human rights.

On August 13, Neth Nahara – an avid TikTok user - was arrested by the Criminal Investigation Services at 04 de Fevereiro International Airport, while preparing for a trip to Dubai. On August 14, she was summarily tried and sentenced to 6 months in prison for 'outrage against the state, its symbols, and bodies' and a fine of 1 million Kwanza (approximately 1,200 USD) for having made a live stream on August 12 on her TikTok account criticizing the president. On September 27, the second stage court decided to uphold the prosecution's appeal, extending the sentence from 6 months to 2 years in prison, in a clear attack on the freedom of expression, violating article 40 of the Angolan Constitution, article 9 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights to which Angola is a state party. Since her arrest in August, Neth Nahara has not been receiving her daily medication for the HIV virus. This led to an emergency hospitalization on December 3.

I urge you to ensure that Neth Nahara is immediately released, since her conviction and ongoing arbitrary detention stem from the peaceful exercise of her human rights. Pending her release, the authorities must also ensure she has immediate access to all necessary and adequate healthcare.

Yours sincerely,

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**Neth Nahara**, 31, is known as a digital influencer who uses her social media to comment on current issues in Angola, mainly involving famous artists and politicians. Singer and mother of two small children, on social media, where she has thousands of followers, she is also known for her controversial and polemic positions and for sharing details of her personal life, such as her state of health and other day-to-day challenges.

In the days leading up to the recording of her livestream on Tiktok, on August 12, 2023, where she criticized the president of the republic, Neth Nahara had denounced, on her social media accounts, the police's attempt to seize her building materials, without a warrant, on one of her plots of land.

In Angola, in recent years, the free exercise of the right to freedom of expression has been under attack. Criticizing the President of the Republic is now a criminal offence. In October 2022, Kuduro singer **Gilson Morreira (also known as Tanaice Neutro)** was also sentenced to 15 months imprisonment for the crime of 'Outrage against the State, its symbols, and bodies' after calling the President of the Republic a clown in one of his videos posted on Facebook.

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

**PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL:** February 9, 2024

**NAME AND PRONOUN:** Ana da Silva Miguel (She/her)