



Committee to Protect Journalists



Joint Submission by the Committee to Protect Journalists, the Angolan Journalists' Syndicate, and the Media Institute of Southern Africa - Angola

for the 48th Session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group, January 2025

The Republic of Angola

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Executive summary

1. As organizations promoting freedom of expression and the rule of law, this submission focuses on the Republic of Angola's ("**Angola**") compliance with international human rights obligations related to freedom of opinion and expression and freedom of the press, and on progress made since the last review in 2020.
2. In particular, the concerns raised in this submission relate to:
 - Physical attacks, torture, and abduction of journalists and their families²
 - Harassment and intimidation of journalists
 - Arbitrary detention and imprisonment of journalists
 - Criminal defamation actions against journalists
 - Invocation of anti-terror law and anti-state charges against journalists
 - Suspension of broadcasts and broadcast permissions, and censorship

Human rights instruments referred to in this submission

3. Article 12 of the Constitution of the Republic of Angola (adopted in 2010) affirms Angola's attachment to the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights ("the **African Charter**") of the African Union, as well as commitment to their principles, including respect for human rights.³
4. Article 40 of Angola's Constitution enshrines the "Freedom of expression and information," which states that "[e]veryone shall have the right to freely express, publicise and share their ideas and opinions . . . as well as the right and the freedom to inform others, to inform themselves and to be informed, without hindrance or discrimination." The right "may not be obstructed or limited by any type or form of censorship," but it is not unqualified and may be limited to protect other rights.⁴
5. The Declaration of Principles of Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Africa (adopted by the African Commission on Human Rights in 2019) in its Preamble reaffirms "the fundamental importance of freedom of expression and access to information as individual human rights, as cornerstones of democracy and as means of ensuring respect for other human rights."⁵ It further highlights the "key role of the media and other means of communication in ensuring full respect for the right to freedom of expression, promoting the free flow of information and ideas, assisting individuals in making informed decisions and facilitating and strengthening democracy."⁶ It sets forth general principles including: (1) the importance of the rights to freedom of expression and access to information, (2) non interference with freedom of opinion, (3) non-discrimination, (4) protection of the rights to freedom of expression and access to information online, and (5) protection of human rights defenders and others.⁷ The protection and safety of journalists is enshrined in Principles 19 and 20 of the Declaration, which affirm that states shall not subject the right to express oneself through the media to "undue legal restrictions".⁸ Rather, states are obligated to "guarantee the safety of journalists" and "take measures to prevent attacks on journalists and other media practitioners, including murder, extra-judicial killing, torture and other forms of ill-treatment, arbitrary arrest and detention, enforced disappearance, kidnapping, intimidation, threats and unlawful surveillance undertaken by State and non-State actors."⁹
6. Angola is a member state of the United Nations. Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in 1948) enshrines the principle of freedom of opinion and expression, noting that "the right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers." Articles 8, 9, 10, and 11 protect the right to an effective

remedy and to a fair trial, the presumption of innocence, and the prohibition on arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.

7. Angola acceded to the African Charter in 1991.¹⁰ Article 9 of the African Charter protects every individual's right to receive information and to express and disseminate opinions within the law.¹¹ Article 7(1) protects the right to be tried within a reasonable time by an impartial court and the right to an appeal.¹²
8. Angola also ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights ("**the Covenant**") in 1992.¹³ The Covenant sets forth the principle in its Article 19 that "[e]veryone shall have the right to hold opinions without interference" and the right to "freedom of expression" which includes "freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds."¹⁴ Those rights are subject to restriction only as provided by law and necessary for the respect of rights or reputations of others or for the protection of national security, public order, public health or morals.¹⁵ Article 9(1) of the Covenant provides that no one shall be deprived of his or her liberty except on such grounds and in accordance with such procedures as are established by law. Article 9(2) of the Covenant requires that anyone who is arrested shall be informed, at the time of arrest, of the reasons for his or her arrest. Article 9(3) of the Covenant provides that: "Anyone arrested or detained on a criminal charge shall be brought promptly before a judge or other officer authorized by law to exercise judicial power and shall be entitled to trial within a reasonable time or to release." Article 14 of the Covenant also sets forth a right to a fair trial before an independent and impartial court.¹⁶
9. The Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment (adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1988) provides in Principle 15 that "communication of the detained or imprisoned person with the outside world, and in particular his [or her] family or counsel, shall not be denied for more than a matter of days."¹⁷ Principle 17 provides the right to counsel which should be informed to him or her promptly after arrest.¹⁸

Implementation of recommendations from previous review

10. Our commentary on the recommendations supported from the previous Universal Periodic Review ("**UPR**") cycle are contained in the matrix of relevant recommendations in Appendix 1. Journalists continue to face significant challenges in the course of their work. All of the recommendations relevant to freedom of expression and press freedom which were supported are "not implemented."

Update on the situation for freedom of expression since the last review

General observations

11. There are several areas of concern raised in this submission. Threats to freedom of expression and press freedom are occurring on multiple fronts: (i) physical attacks, torture, and abduction of journalists; (ii) harassment and intimidation of journalists; (iii) arbitrary detention and imprisonment of journalists; (iv) criminal defamation actions against journalists, (v) invocation of anti-terror and anti-state laws against journalists; (vi) suspension of broadcasts and broadcast permissions, and censorship. These factors limit the right to freedom of expression and press freedom in Angola. These issues must be simultaneously addressed by the state in order to ensure the aforementioned rights.

Specific issues of concern

12. For each of the themes below, a detailed list of incidents reported between 2020 and July 2024 is contained in Appendix 2.

Physical attacks, torture, and abduction of journalists

13. There have been a number of instances where journalists have been physically attacked either in retaliation for their journalistic work or in an attempt to silence journalists from reporting on unfolding events. There is little to no evidence of the authorities investigating incidents when they occur, and most such incidents take place in a climate of impunity.
14. Of particular concern was the attack on opposition broadcast journalist Claudio Pinto, whose home was broken into by masked assailants and whose wife was tortured in apparent retaliation against Pinto's reporting.¹⁹ The assailants tied up Pinto's wife, beat her, cut her repeatedly with a hot knife, while threatening to kill the couple's one-year-old son. The men said they "would return to finish the job if her husband did not shut up." Pinto and his wife filed suit at their local police station. Thereafter, the police collected evidence at Pinto's house and opened an investigation into the attack. However, no one was ever arrested or prosecuted in connection with the incident.
15. In another concerning incident, six reporters for *TV Zimbo* and *TV Palanca* covering a taxi strike in Luanda were doused in gasoline by unidentified assailants and forced to flee to avoid being lit on fire.²⁰
16. There are also numerous incidents of Angolan police beating reporters covering government protests and confiscating reporting equipment, and requiring reporters to delete photos taken. In several separate incidents, Angolan police harassed, detained, and beat journalists covering anti-government protests in the capital city of Luanda.²¹ For example, police beat

Radio Essencial journalists Suely de Melo and Carlos Tome, *Valor Económico* photographer Santos Samuessa, and their driver Leonardo Faustino and confiscated their cell phones and cameras.²² Police also assaulted two *Agence France-Press* freelancers and forced them to delete images, after attempting to seize their equipment.²³ Authorities beat reporters Romão De Jesus and Daniel Fernandes while they covered protests against the demolition of homes for a new airport.²⁴

Harassment and intimidation of journalists

17. During the past cycle, there have been multiple incidents of journalists being harassed or intimidated while reporting on national elections, anti-government protests, and strikes. Supporters of both the ruling party, the People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA), and the opposition party, National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), participate in the harassment of the journalists.²⁵
18. In several separate incidents, Angolan police harassed journalists covering anti-government protests in Luanda.²⁶ In one incident, a gunman invaded the home of *Folha 8* prominent journalist and editor William Tonet at 4 a.m.²⁷ Taken in conjunction with other incidents, including a fire that destroyed the offices of newspaper *Folha 8* and equipment worth approximately 50,000 U.S. dollars,²⁸ Tonet believes he is being targeted for harassment and intimidation due to his critical journalism.

Arbitrary detention and imprisonment of journalists

19. Angolan authorities regularly detain journalists covering newsworthy events, often protests. Police have detained journalists including Jorge Manuel while he was covering protests over evictions,²⁹ Santos Samuessa while he was covering anti-government protests in Luanda,³⁰ Voice of America correspondent Coque Mukuta while he was covering protests against electoral irregularities shortly before national elections,³¹ and *Deutsche Welle* correspondent Borralho Ndomba while he was covering student demonstrations in Luanda.³² Three of the journalists were released unconditionally and without charge, and Jorge Manuel was conditionally released without charge.
20. Aspects of journalists' professional activities have been targeted in connection with their detention and arrest. For example, *TV Zimbo* journalists Domingos Caiombo and Octávio Zoba were detained by police and forced to delete images of a protest.³³ Opposition radio journalist Jorge Manuel was arrested while covering eviction protests, had his equipment confiscated, and was conditionally released without charge after being held for five days.³⁴ Editor Jeremias Kaboco was detained with his press identification card displayed, and forced under the seat of a police van, despite identifying himself as a journalist, but was released later that day, without signing any release documents and without any explanation. The

spokesperson for the Uige police, Freitas Zama, claimed that Kaboco had not been officially detained, because he had never been placed in a cell.³⁵

21. Journalists have also faced arrest for failure to appear in court or failure to comply with criminal defamation sentences. For example, police arrested *Chela Press* editor Francisco Rasgado for allegedly failing to appear in court on criminal defamation and insult charges under Angola's Penal Code, even though he and his lawyer stated that Rasgado was never notified of the hearing.³⁶ Carlos Alberto, the editor of *Portal A Denúncia*, was re-arrested for alleged failure to comply with a criminal defamation, injurious denunciation, and press freedom conviction, and a three-year prison sentence.³⁷ At the date of this submission, Alberto remains in jail, serving his sentence.

Criminal defamation actions against journalists

22. Anti-defamation laws remain on the books in Angola and are regularly used to suppress journalism and target journalists who criticize members of the government or police. Criminal defamation suits against journalists are widespread, and often brought by members of the government, including the President,³⁸ government ministers,³⁹ and other members of the ruling party.⁴⁰ In one particular instance, the secretary of information for the ruling party demanded damages of 1 billion kwanzas (\$1.5 million) and up to two months imprisonment in a criminal defamation action against *Chela Press* editor Francisco Rasgado.⁴¹ In another instance, police questioned Father Alberto Java, director of the Catholic Church's *Radio Ecclésia Huambo*, in connection with a criminal defamation complaint filed by a police commandant who was accused of involvement in arms trafficking.⁴² Moreover, Radio Luanda reporter Liberato Furtado Pereira was charged with criminal defamation and insult for reporting on the alleged diversion of government funds by a prosecutor.⁴³

Invocation of anti-terror and anti-state laws against journalists

23. Criminal charges such as "incitement to rebellion" and "outrage against the president" have been used as a pretextual means of putting pressure on journalistic operations. In one such instance, the National Criminal Investigation Service questioned David Boio, owner of the website *Camunda News*, concerning the charges above. Senior reporter Ilídio Manuel and two other staff members were also questioned, and as a result, Boio felt pressured to suspend the website indefinitely.⁴⁴ These concerning laws will only be broadened by a National Security Bill proposed in January of 2024, which will grant the government the power to censor broadcasting, disrupt telecommunication services, authorize police surveillance, close public premises, and grant authority to the government to prohibit movement.⁴⁵

Suspension of broadcasts and broadcast permissions, and censorship

24. In one instance of particular concern, the Ministry of Telecommunications Technologies and Media ordered the nation's three television operators to cease airing content from Record TV Africa, Vida TV, and Zap Viva following allegations of registration and press law violations. The government also indicated that hundreds of newspapers, magazines, and radio stations would be shut down for similar noncompliance with registration. However, Record TV Africa, Vida TV, and Zap Viva were shut down without any warning. They had allegedly been operating without sufficient registration. This closure preceded the run-up to the 2022 general elections and followed criticism of the incumbent president, João Lourenço, and his government.⁴⁶ Censorship is systemically employed by the authorities to control access and flow of information, and expression.⁴⁷ A National Security Bill proposed in January 2024 has the potential to further censor broadcasting and disrupt telecommunication services.⁴⁸

Recommendations to the Republic of Angola by the submitting organization

Physical attacks, torture, and abduction of journalists

25. Take measures to end all forms of torture, violence, and other ill-treatment inflicted on journalists.
26. Ensure prompt and thorough investigations into the physical attacks, torture, and abduction of journalists, and bring all perpetrators, including conspirators, to justice in a fair trial to ensure accountability.

Harassment and intimidation of journalists

27. Take measures to end state and non-state actors' intimidation and threats to journalists.
28. Promptly and effectively investigate threats against and harassment of journalists, end impunity for perpetrators of intimidation or harassment against journalists.
29. Establish an effective mechanism to protect at-risk journalists, particularly those covering protests, strikes, elections, and politically sensitive topics. This mechanism should be tailored to address journalists' needs and have the necessary budget and staffing allocations for its full implementation.

Arbitrary detention and imprisonment of journalists

30. Immediately release journalist Carlos Alberto who, at the date of this submission, remains in jail, serving his sentence.
31. Take measures to end arbitrary arrest and detention of journalists.

32. Cease the practice of detaining journalists without a formal charge or complaint.
33. Ensure that arrests and detentions comply with international human rights law.
34. Conduct an impartial and independent investigation into any allegations of ill-treatment by those detained.
35. Ensure that all journalists are granted the right to a fair trial before an independent and impartial court promptly.

Criminal defamation actions against journalists

36. Stop using criminal defamation charges to prosecute journalists and media outlets.
37. Undertake necessary reforms to Angola's penal code to exclude the criminalization of defamation and repeal insult laws.
38. End the use of defamation laws as a vehicle for suppression of political commentary.
39. Remove from legislation any penalties of imprisonment for violations of defamation laws.
40. Repeal crimes against the press.
41. Reject the National Security Bill proposed in January 2024.

Invocation of anti-terror and anti-state charges against journalists

42. Stop the arrest and detention of journalists for covering protests or politically sensitive topics. Adopt a policy that does not conflate coverage with support.
43. Take steps to prevent the passage of the proposed National Security Bill, which would give the Angolan government the power to censor broadcasting and disrupt telecommunication services, authorize police surveillance, close public premises and prohibit movement.

Suspension of broadcasts and broadcast permissions, and censorship

44. Allow the media to establish independent self-regulatory bodies without interference from the government.
45. Immediately lift any suspensions or closures imposed on radio or television broadcasters.
46. End media shutdowns during politically sensitive periods.
47. Establish safeguards to prevent local authorities from exerting force to shut down broadcasting stations.

48. Ensure that confiscated equipment from broadcasting stations is promptly restituted or that adequate compensation is paid.

Annex 1
Matrix of Recommendations from the Previous Cycle
with Comments on Progress

Recommendation ⁴⁹	Position ⁵⁰	Full list of themes	Assessment/comments on level of implementation
Theme: A12 Acceptance of international norms			
146.1 Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture at the earliest convenience (Ghana); Source of Position: A/HRC/43/11	Supported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Acceptance of international norms - Prohibition of torture & cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment - Conditions of detention - Scope of international obligations <p>Affected persons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Persons deprived of their liberty & detainees 	<p style="text-align: center;">Not implemented</p> <p>The submitters are unaware of any discussions or considerations in implementing the Convention against Torture. Journalists and their families continue to face torture in the course of their work.</p>
146.2 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (Denmark) (Ukraine); Source of Position: A/HRC/43/11	Supported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Acceptance of international norms - Prohibition of torture & cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment - Conditions of detention - Scope of international obligations <p>Affected persons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Persons deprived of their liberty & detainees 	<p style="text-align: center;">Not implemented</p> <p>The submitters are unaware of any discussions or considerations about ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture. Journalists and their families continue to face torture in the course of their work.</p>

Recommendation ⁴⁹	Position ⁵⁰	Full list of themes	Assessment/comments on level of implementation
<p>146.3 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (France);</p> <p>Source of Position: A/HRC/43/11</p>	Supported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Acceptance of international norms - Enforced disappearances - Prohibition of torture & cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment - Conditions of detention - Scope of international obligations <p>Affected persons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Disappeared persons - Persons deprived of their liberty & detainees 	<p>Not implemented</p> <p>The submitters are unaware of any discussions or considerations about ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. Journalists continue to face torture, arbitrary arrests, and abductions in the course of their work.</p>
<p>146.4 Accelerate the process for the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture already signed in September 2013 (Burundi);</p> <p>Source of Position: A/HRC/43/11</p>	Supported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Acceptance of international norms - Prohibition of torture & cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment - Conditions of detention - Scope of international obligations <p>Affected persons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Persons deprived of their liberty & detainees 	<p>Not implemented</p> <p>The submitters are unaware of any discussions or considerations about ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture. Journalists and their families continue to face torture in the course of their work.</p>
<p>146.11 Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Togo) (Ukraine);</p> <p>Source of Position: A/HRC/43/11</p>	Supported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Acceptance of international norms - Enforced disappearances - Scope of international obligations <p>Affected persons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Disappeared persons 	<p>Not implemented</p> <p>The submitters are unaware of any discussions or considerations about ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. Journalists continue to face imprisonment, arbitrary detentions, and abductions in the course of their work.</p>

Recommendation ⁴⁹	Position ⁵⁰	Full list of themes	Assessment/comments on level of implementation
<p>146.12 Deploy efforts to ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Iraq);</p> <p>Source of Position: A/HRC/43/11</p>	Supported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Acceptance of international norms - Enforced disappearances - Scope of international obligations <p>Affected persons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Disappeared persons 	<p>Not implemented</p> <p>The submitters are unaware of any discussions or considerations about ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. Journalists continue to face imprisonment, arbitrary detentions, and abductions in the course of their work.</p>
<p>146.13 Consider ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Uruguay);</p> <p>Source of Position: A/HRC/43/11</p>	Supported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Acceptance of international norms - Economic, social & cultural rights – general measures of implementation - Enforced disappearances - Scope of international obligations <p>Affected persons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Disappeared persons - Children 	<p>Not implemented</p> <p>The submitters are unaware of any discussions or considerations about ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure. Journalists continue to face imprisonment, arbitrary detentions, and abductions in the course of their work.</p>

Recommendation ⁴⁹	Position ⁵⁰	Full list of themes	Assessment/comments on level of implementation
<p>146.24 Continue efforts to ratify international instruments and to cooperate with human rights mechanisms (Morocco);</p> <p>Source of Position: A/HRC/43/11</p>	Supported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Acceptance of international norms - Cooperation & follow up with Treaty Bodies - Cooperation & follow up with the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) - Scope of international obligations - Cooperation & follow up with Special Procedures <p>Affected persons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - General 	<p>Not implemented</p> <p>The submitters are unaware of any measures taken to implement international human rights mechanisms into law. Journalists continue to face human rights violations in the course of their work, their abusers often continue with impunity.</p>
Theme: A41 Constitutional & legislative framework			
<p>146.37 Ensure that the provisions of all international human rights treaties to which Angola is a party are incorporated into domestic law (Germany);</p> <p>Source of Position: A/HRC/43/11</p>	Supported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Constitutional & legislative framework - Legal, institutional & policy framework <p>Affected persons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - General 	<p>Not implemented</p> <p>The submitters are unaware of any measures taken to implement international human rights treaties into domestic law. Journalists continue to face human rights violations in the course of their work, and their abusers often continue with impunity.</p>
<p>146.38 Ensure the effective implementation of international human rights treaties at the domestic level (Indonesia);</p> <p>Source of Position: A/HRC/43/11</p>	Supported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Constitutional & legislative framework - Legal, institutional & policy framework <p>Affected persons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - General 	<p>Not implemented</p> <p>The submitters are unaware of any measures taken to implement human rights treaties at the domestic level. Journalists continue to face human rights violations in the course of their work, and their abusers often continue with impunity.</p>

Recommendation ⁴⁹	Position ⁵⁰	Full list of themes	Assessment/comments on level of implementation
<p>146.39 Continue harmonizing national legislation in line with international human rights standards (Russian Federation);</p> <p>Source of Position: A/HRC/43/11</p>	Supported	<p>- Constitutional & legislative framework</p> <p>- Legal, institutional & policy framework</p> <p>Affected persons:</p> <p>- General</p>	<p>Not implemented</p> <p>The submitters are unaware of any measures taken to adhere to international human rights standards. Journalists continue to face human rights violations in the course of their work, and their abusers often continue with impunity.</p>
Theme: A4 Legal, institutional & policy framework			
<p>146.42 Continue to strengthen its legal and institutional frameworks for the promotion and protection of human rights (Nigeria);</p> <p>Source of Position: A/HRC/43/11</p>	Supported	<p>- Legal, institutional & policy framework</p> <p>Affected persons:</p> <p>- General</p>	<p>Not implemented</p> <p>The submitters are unaware of any measures taken to promote and protect human rights. Journalists continue to face human rights violations in the course of their work, and their abusers often continue with impunity.</p>
Theme: D25 Prohibition of torture & cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment			
<p>146.90 Establish a national mechanism for the prevention of torture to undertake regular unannounced visits to all detention facilities (Slovakia);</p> <p>Source of Position: A/HRC/43/11</p>	Supported	<p>- Prohibition of torture & cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment</p> <p>- Conditions of detention</p> <p>- Other National human rights institutions & preventive or accountability mechanisms</p> <p>Affected persons:</p> <p>- Persons deprived of their liberty & detainees</p>	<p>Not implemented</p> <p>The submitters are unaware of any measures taken to prevent torture. Journalists continue to face significant hardship in the course of their work.</p>

Recommendation ⁴⁹	Position ⁵⁰	Full list of themes	Assessment/comments on level of implementation
<p>146.91 Bring the definition of torture in the Criminal Code into line with article 7 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Spain);</p> <p>Source of Position: A/HRC/43/111</p>	Supported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prohibition of torture & cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment - Constitutional & legislative framework <p>Affected persons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Law enforcement / police & prison officials - Persons deprived of their liberty & detainees 	<p>Not implemented</p> <p>The submitters are unaware of any measures taken to fully bring the definition of torture in line with Article 7 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Journalists continue to face significant hardship in the course of their work.</p>
<p>146.92 Take necessary measures to fully implement the Convention against Torture (Italy);</p> <p>Source of Position: A/HRC/43/11</p>	Supported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prohibition of torture & cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment - Cooperation & Follow up with Treaty Bodies <p>Affected persons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Persons deprived of their liberty & detainees 	<p>Not implemented</p> <p>The submitters are unaware of any measures taken to implement the Convention against Torture fully. Journalists continue to face significant hardship in the course of their work.</p>
<p>146.93 Carry out prompt, impartial and independent investigations into all allegations of torture or ill-treatment and human rights violations committed by members of the security forces to end impunity (Switzerland);</p> <p>Source of Position: A/HRC/43/11</p>	Supported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prohibition of torture & cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment - Impunity & transparency - Administration of justice & fair trial - Right to effective remedy & reparations <p>Affected persons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Law enforcement/ police & prison officials - Judges, lawyers and prosecutors - Persons deprived of their liberty & detainees 	<p>Not implemented</p> <p>The submitters are unaware of any attempts to ensure impartial and independent investigations into all allegations of torture or ill-treatment and human rights violations committed by members of the security forces. Journalists are still subject to abuse at the hands of these forces, all met with impunity.</p>

Recommendation ⁴⁹	Position ⁵⁰	Full list of themes	Assessment/comments on level of implementation
Theme: D51 Administration of justice & fair trial			
<p>146.47 Pursue judicial and institutional reforms in order to align them with international human rights standards (Senegal);</p> <p>Source of Position: A/HRC/43/11</p>	Supported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Administration of justice & fair trial - Legal, institutional & policy framework <p>Affected persons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Judges, lawyers and prosecutors 	<p>Not implemented</p> <p>The submitters are unaware of any efforts taken to pursue judicial and institutional reforms in order to align with international human rights standards.</p>
<p>146.87 Take further action to end the extrajudicial killing of criminal suspects under investigation and to allow humanitarian access to prisoners (Australia);</p> <p>Source of Position: A/HRC/43/11</p>	Supported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Administration of justice & fair trial - Right to physical & moral integrity - Liberty & security of the person - Prohibition of torture & cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment - Extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions <p>Affected persons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Persons deprived of their liberty & detainees 	<p>Not implemented</p> <p>The submitters are unaware of any actions taken to end extrajudicial killings of criminal suspects or to allow humanitarian access to prisoners. Journalists continue to face significant challenges in the course of their work.</p>
<p>146.88 Establish credible investigations and ensure judicial accountability for allegations of unlawful or arbitrary killings by government security forces (United States of America);</p> <p>Source of Position: A/HRC/43/11</p>	Supported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Administration of justice & fair trial - Impunity & transparency - Right to effective remedy & reparations - Extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions <p>Affected persons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Law enforcement / police & prison officials 	<p>Not implemented</p> <p>The submitters are unaware of any measures taken to ensure accountability for allegations of abuse by government security forces. Journalists continue to face significant challenges in the course of their work.</p>

Recommendation ⁴⁹	Position ⁵⁰	Full list of themes	Assessment/comments on level of implementation
<p>146.89 Investigate all allegations of torture, bring perpetrators to justice and provide victims with adequate assistance (Slovakia);</p> <p>Source of Position: A/HRC/43/11</p>	Supported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Administration of justice & fair trial - Support to victims & witnesses - Right to effective remedy & reparations - Prohibition of torture & cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment <p>Affected persons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Judges, lawyers and prosecutors - Persons deprived of their liberty & detainees 	<p>Not implemented</p> <p>The submitters are unaware of any measures taken to investigate allegations of torture. Journalists continue to face significant challenges in the course of their work.</p>
<p>146.94 Investigate all allegations of extrajudicial killings, arbitrary arrests and torture by the police and security forces, bring perpetrators to justice and compensate victims (Czechia);</p> <p>Source of Position: A/HRC/43/11</p>	Supported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Administration of justice & fair trial - Right to effective remedy & reparations - Prohibition of torture & cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment - Extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions <p>Affected persons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Law enforcement / police & prison officials - Judges, lawyers and prosecutors - Persons deprived of their liberty & detainees 	<p>Not implemented</p> <p>The submitters are unaware of any measures taken to investigate arbitrary arrests and other forms of police misconduct. Journalists continue to be mistreated by the police.</p>

Recommendation ⁴⁹	Position ⁵⁰	Full list of themes	Assessment/comments on level of implementation
<p>146.100 Take further measures to improve prison conditions through effective implementation of the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules) and the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules) (Thailand);</p> <p>Source of Position: A/HRC/43/11</p>	Supported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Administration of justice & fair trial - Conditions of detention <p>Affected persons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Women - Persons deprived of their liberty & detainees 	<p>Not implemented</p> <p>The submitters are unaware of any steps taken to improve prison conditions for prisoners. Journalists continue to face arbitrary arrests coupled with mistreatment when arrested.</p>
Theme: D43 Freedom of opinion & expression & right to information			
<p>146.119 Step up its efforts to promote freedom of the press, including by engaging with relevant stakeholders, particularly civil society and the press, when enacting or revising relevant media laws (Thailand);</p> <p>Source of Position: A/HRC/43/11</p>	Supported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Freedom of opinion & expression & right to information - Cooperation and meaningful consultation with civil society & participation - Constitutional & legislative framework <p>Affected persons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Media 	<p>Not implemented</p> <p>The submitters are unaware of any efforts to promote freedom of the press. Instead, the National Security Bill, proposed in the Angolan National Assembly, poses a significant threat to the freedom of the press, authorizing police and military surveillance, allowing for prohibitions on broadcasting, and the closure of public premises.</p>
<p>146.120 Continue legislative reforms to increase media freedom and strengthen protection of the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, and end the arbitrary arrest of journalists and peaceful protesters (Australia);</p> <p>Source of Position: A/HRC/43/11</p>	Supported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Freedom of opinion & expression & right to information - Arbitrary arrest & detention - Right to peaceful assembly - Constitutional & legislative framework <p>Affected persons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Media 	<p>Not implemented</p> <p>Journalists continue to face significant challenges in the course of their work, including violence, arbitrary arrests, criminal charges, harassment, detention, and forced suspensions.</p>

Recommendation ⁴⁹	Position ⁵⁰	Full list of themes	Assessment/comments on level of implementation
<p>146.121 Take concrete steps to make independent media accessible nationwide, including by reducing the cost of broadcasting licences (Norway);</p> <p>Source of Position: A/HRC/43/11</p>	Supported	<p>- Freedom of opinion & expression & right to information</p> <p>Affected persons: - Media</p>	<p>Not implemented</p> <p>The submitters are unaware of any steps taken to reduce the cost of broadcasting licenses or to make independent media accessible nationwide. Registration laws are still used to suppress nationwide TV operators.</p>
<p>146.122 Protect freedom of expression by ensuring that all provisions of the press law are brought into conformity with article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Belgium);</p> <p>Source of Position: A/HRC/43/11</p>	Supported	<p>- Freedom of opinion & expression & right to information</p> <p>- Constitutional & legislative framework</p> <p>Affected persons: - Media</p>	<p>Not implemented</p> <p>The submitters are unaware of any efforts to ensure the provisions of the press law are brought into conformity with Article 19. Journalists continue to face significant challenges in the course of their work.</p>
<p>146.123 Fulfil the right to freedom of expression, as accepted in the last review cycle, including by taking effective measures to ensure that journalists are protected against all forms of violence, harassment and arbitrary deprivation of liberty (Sweden);</p> <p>Source of Position: A/HRC/43/11</p>	Supported	<p>- Freedom of opinion & expression & right to information</p> <p>- Arbitrary arrest & detention</p> <p>Affected persons: - Media</p>	<p>Not implemented</p> <p>Journalists continue to face significant challenges in the course of their work, including violence, arbitrary arrests, criminal charges, harassment, detention, and forced suspensions.</p>
<p>146.124 Continue efforts to protect the rights to freedom of expression, freedom of association and peaceful assembly (Indonesia);</p> <p>Source of Position: A/HRC/43/11</p>	Supported	<p>- Freedom of opinion & expression & right to information</p> <p>- Freedom of association</p> <p>- Right to peaceful assembly</p> <p>Affected persons: - General</p>	<p>Not implemented</p> <p>The submitters are unaware of any steps taken to protect the rights to freedom of expression, association, and peaceful assembly. Journalists continue to be arrested while reporting on protests.</p>

Recommendation ⁴⁹	Position ⁵⁰	Full list of themes	Assessment/comments on level of implementation
<p>146.125 Amend or repeal all laws that unduly restrict the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly, and take additional measures to ensure journalists and human rights defenders are able to carry out their activities without fear or undue hindrance, obstruction or legal and administrative harassment (Ireland);</p> <p>Source of Position: A/HRC/43/11</p>	Supported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Freedom of opinion & expression & right to information - Freedom of association - Right to peaceful assembly <p>Affected persons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Human rights defenders & activists - Media 	<p>Not implemented</p> <p>Journalists continue to face significant challenges in the course of their work. Journalists are subject to criminal defamation charges, anti-terror charges, police surveillance, detention, and prohibition of movement.</p>
<p>146.126 Uphold individuals' rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and association and to freedom of opinion and expression by continuing to address excessive use of force by law enforcement officers and by carrying out prompt, thorough, impartial and independent investigations into cases of arbitrary arrest and detention (Canada);</p> <p>Source of Position: A/HRC/43/11</p>	Supported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Freedom of opinion & expression & right to information - Arbitrary arrest & detention - Freedom of association - Administration of justice & fair trial - Right to peaceful assembly <p>Affected persons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Law enforcement / police & prison officials 	<p>Not implemented</p> <p>The submitters are unaware of specific efforts to conduct impartial and independent investigations into arbitrary arrest and detention cases. Journalists continue to face significant challenges in the course of their work.</p>
<p>146.127 Put an end to all acts of intimidation of journalists and release all persons detained solely for exercising or defending their rights (France);</p> <p>Source of Position: A/HRC/43/11</p>	Supported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Freedom of opinion & expression & right to information - Arbitrary arrest & detention <p>Affected persons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Media - Persons deprived of their liberty & detainees 	<p>Not implemented</p> <p>Journalists continue to have operations suspended, be subject to police surveillance and the prohibition of movement, and face criminal charges for their speech.</p>

Recommendation ⁴⁹	Position ⁵⁰	Full list of themes	Assessment/comments on level of implementation
<p>146.128 Guarantee the protection and respect of civic space by ensuring the timely and effective legal registration of non-governmental organizations (Austria);</p> <p>Source of Position: A/HRC/43/11</p>	Supported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Freedom of opinion & expression & right to information - Freedom of association - Legal, institutional & policy framework <p>Affected persons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Human rights defenders & activists 	<p>Not implemented</p> <p>There is no evidence that non-governmental organizations have been treated differently than during the last cycle.</p>
<p>146.129 Abolish or amend all laws and policies which limit the activities carried out by civil society and human rights defenders and adopt a national law for the promotion and protection of human rights defenders (Iceland);</p> <p>Source of Position: A/HRC/43/11</p>	Supported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Freedom of opinion & expression & right to information - Freedom of association - Constitutional & legislative framework <p>Affected persons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Human rights defenders & activists 	<p>Not implemented</p> <p>Restrictive registration laws and other restrictive press laws have been used to suppress speech in the media.</p>

Recommendation ⁴⁹	Position ⁵⁰	Full list of themes	Assessment/comments on level of implementation
<p>146.130 Ensure that human rights defenders can work in a safe and supportive environment free from attacks, reprisals and unreasonable restrictions and fully guarantee the exercise of their rights in accordance with the Declaration on the Rights and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and other relevant international and regional human rights law (Liechtenstein);</p> <p>Source of Position: A/HRC/43/11</p>	Supported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Freedom of opinion & expression & right to information - Freedom of association - Acceptance of international norms <p>Affected persons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Human rights defenders & activists 	<p>Not implemented</p> <p>Journalists continue to face violence and harassment at the hands of Angolan police officers, as well as assaults by those who work for opposing political groups.</p>
<p>146.131 Ensure the protection of human rights defenders against acts of intimidation and harassment (Luxembourg);</p> <p>Source of Position: A/HRC/43/11</p>	Supported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Freedom of opinion & expression & right to information - Right to physical & moral integrity - Freedom of association <p>Affected persons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Human rights defenders & activists 	<p>Not implemented</p> <p>Journalists continue to face significant challenges in the course of their work, including violence, torture, harassment, assault, forced removal, and intimidation.</p>
Theme: D44 Right to peaceful assembly			
<p>146.132 Refrain from all measures infringing upon the rights to peaceful assembly and expression of its citizens guaranteed by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Slovakia);</p> <p>Source of Position: A/HRC/43/11</p>	Supported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Right to peaceful assembly <p>Affected persons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - General 	<p>Not implemented</p> <p>The government continues to use harsh tactics to disperse crowds of peaceful protestors, such as using tear gas and batons, as well as unlawfully killing protestors.</p>

Annex 2

Timeline of Relevant Events

The following incidents were reported between 2020 and the date of this submission in July 2024. More details of these incidents can be found at: www.cpj.org/africa/angola.

Physical attacks, torture, and abduction of journalists

2020

- October 24, 2020: In several separate incidents, Angolan police harassed, detained, and beat journalists covering anti-government protests in the capital city of Luanda.⁵¹ Police beat Radio Essencial journalists Suely de Melo and Carlos Tome, *Valor Económico* photographer Santos Samuessa, and their driver Leonardo Faustino. Police then confiscated their cell phones and camera.⁵² Police also assaulted two *Agence France-Press* freelancers and forced them to delete images after attempting to confiscate their equipment.⁵³ CPJ reached out to presidential spokesman Luis Fernando and the governor of Luanda Joana Lina for comment, and neither responded.

2022

- January 10, 2022: Six reporters for *TV Zimbo* and *TV Palanca* were assaulted by unidentified assailants while covering a taxi strike in Luanda.⁵⁴ After being called “sellouts” by protestors, one of the reporters was doused with gasoline and was forced to flee to escape being lit on fire.⁵⁵ The journalists sought safety at a police station, and a transit policeman saved one reporter. Although there were no police at the event, the National Police detained the “moral instigator” of the assault and arrested at least 29 individuals accused of vandalism and damage to property.
- April 13, 2022: Members of the Angolan military and police assaulted and removed reporters Daniel Fernandes and Romão De Jesus while they were covering protests on the demolition of homes for a new airport.⁵⁶ De Jesus works for a privately owned station, and Fernandes works for an opposition radio broadcaster.⁵⁷ The authorities beat De Jesus with a baton and confiscated a recorder from Fernandes.⁵⁸ A national police spokesperson and a colonel of the Angolan Military Command declined to comment on the incident.
- September 20, 2022: Masked men broke into the home of opposition journalist Claudio Pinto.⁵⁹ They tortured Pinto’s wife in an apparent retaliation against Pinto’s reporting. The assailants tied up, beat, and cut her repeatedly with a hot knife while threatening to kill the couple’s one-year-old son.⁶⁰ The men said they “would return to finish the job if her husband did not shut up.”⁶¹ Pinto and his wife filed suit at their local police station. Thereafter, the police collected evidence at Pinto’s house and opened an investigation into the attack. However, no one was ever arrested or prosecuted in connection with the incident.

Harassment and intimidation of journalists

2020

- October 24, 2020: In several separate incidents, Angolan police harassed journalists covering anti-government protests in Luanda.⁶²

2021

- July 1, 2021: Police detained Jeremias Kaboco, editor of the news website *Wizi-Kongo*, while he was covering a protest by teachers over unpaid wages in the city of Uige. They threatened to beat him and throw him in a cell if he resisted the rough treatment after he was taken away under the seat of a police van.⁶³ He was released later that day, without signing any release documents and without any explanation. The spokesperson for the Uige police, Freitas Zama, claimed that Kaboco had not been officially detained, because he had never been placed in a cell.

2022

- January 10, 2022: Six reporters for *TV Zimbo* and *TV Palanca* were called “sellouts” by protesters while covering a taxi strike in Luanda.⁶⁴
- July 1- 22, 2022: Three journalists were harassed while reporting on campaign events in the run-up to Angola’s national elections.⁶⁵ The incidents happened at events for both the ruling People’s Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) and the opposition National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) parties.⁶⁶

2023

- April 27, 2024: A gunman invaded the home of *Folha 8* prominent journalist and editor William Tonet at 4 a.m.⁶⁷
- June 6, 2023: A fire destroyed the offices of newspaper *Folha 8* where William Tonet works.⁶⁸ The blaze also destroyed camera and editing equipment worth approximately 50,000 U.S. dollars. Taken in conjunction with a subsequent break-in of Tonet’s home, Tonet believes he is being targeted through harassment.

Arbitrary detention and imprisonment of journalists

2020

- October 24, 2020: Police detained *Radio Essencial* journalists Suely de Melo and Carlos Tome, and their driver Leonardo Faustino, after beating them and confiscating their cell phones and cameras.⁶⁹ The journalists and their driver were still in police custody when CPJ reached out to the spokesman of the Angolan police, who stated that the police were working on getting them out of custody. Following CPJ’s outreach, they were subsequently released after four days and over 50 hours in police custody. Police also arrested photojournalist *Valor*

Económico photographer Santos Samuessa while he was covering anti-government protests in Luanda.⁷⁰ He was interrogated by a public prosecutor and released unconditionally and without charge after spending over 50 hours in police custody. In addition, police detained *TV Zimbo's* Domingos Caiombo and Octávio Zoba and forced them to delete images of the protest.⁷¹ They were released the same day without charge.

2021

- April 7, 2021: Police arrested opposition radio journalist Jorge Manuel while he was covering eviction protests.⁷² While he was in custody, officials confiscated his equipment and did not provide him with food.⁷³ Manuel was released without charge after five days, a violation of Angolan law according to the Union of Angolan Journalists, as he was detained for over 48 hours before being granted a hearing.⁷⁴ Authorities launched an investigation against Manuel to determine whether he was part of the anti-eviction protests. His conditional release required that he report to the police station every 15 days during the investigation.
- April 23, 2021: Police arrested *Chela Press* editor Francisco Rasgado for allegedly failing to appear in court on criminal defamation and insult charges under Angola's Penal Code, even though he and his lawyer stated that Rasgado was never notified of the hearing.⁷⁵ Rui Falcão, the then Secretary of Information for the ruling People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) party, brought the charge, seeking 1 billion kwanzas (\$1.5 million) in damages. Rasgado risked six months imprisonment and fines if convicted. After spending the weekend in jail, Rasgado was released on April 26, 2021, and the Benguela District Court acquitted him of all charges on May 3, 2021.⁷⁶
- July 1, 2021: Police detained Jeremias Kaboco, editor of the news website *Wizi-Kongo*, while he was covering a protest by teachers over unpaid wages in the city of Uige.⁷⁷ With his press identification card displayed, he was forced into a police van, despite identifying himself as a journalist. He was released later that day, without signing any release documents and without any explanation. The spokesperson for the Uige police, Freitas Zama, claimed that Kaboco had not been officially detained, because he had never been placed in a cell.
- September 13, 2021: Carlos Alberto, editor of *Portal A Denúncia*, was convicted by the Luanda Provincial Court of criminal defamation, injurious denunciation, and violating press freedom.⁷⁸ Alberto was sentenced to a suspended three-year prison term, a repeated apology, and a fine.⁷⁹ The charges stemmed from a report on alleged misconduct by Deputy Attorney General Luis Liz, who filed the complaint.⁸⁰ Alberto was re-arrested on September 29, 2023, for allegedly failing to comply with his sentence.⁸¹ At the date of this submission, Alberto remains in jail, serving his sentence.

2022

- August 17, 2022: Police detained Voice of America Correspondent Coque Mukuta for three hours while he was covering a protest against electoral irregularities in advance of national elections.⁸² He was released unconditionally and without charge.

- October 8, 2022: Police detained Deutsche Welle correspondent Borrhalho Ndomba without charge while he was covering a student demonstration in Luanda.⁸³ He was released unconditionally and without charge.

Criminal defamation actions against journalists

2021

- February 12, 2021: Criminal investigators questioned *O Crime* editor Mariano Brás for three hours over an article critical of Angolan President João Lourenço.⁸⁴ Officers stated they were questioning him in response to a complaint, which they initially said was filed by the president himself.⁸⁵ However, the officers later declined to specify who had filed the complaint. Brás had previously been charged under the criminal defamation statute based on a complaint filed by Minister of State for Social Affairs Carolina Cerqueira.⁸⁶
- April 23, 2021: Police arrested *Chela Press* editor Francisco Rasgado for allegedly failing to appear in court on criminal defamation and insult charges under Angola's Penal Code, even though he and his lawyer stated that Rasgado was never notified of the hearing.⁸⁷ Rui Falcão, the then Secretary of Information for the ruling People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) party, brought the charge, seeking 1 billion kwanzas (\$1.5 million) in damages. Rasgado risked six months imprisonment and fines if convicted. After spending the weekend in jail, Rasgado was released on April 26, 2021, and the Benguela District Court acquitted him of all charges on May 3, 2021.⁸⁸
- May 18, 2021: The Criminal Investigation Service opened defamation investigations into three media outlets and their editorial staff: Lucas Pedro, editor of website *Club K*, Escrivão José, director of newspaper and website *Hora H*, and Carlos Alberto, editor of the YouTube news channel *Portal A Denúncia*.⁸⁹
- June 17, 2021: Authorities charged Escrivão José, of *Hora H*, and Coque Mukuta, editor of *O Decreto* and Voice of America correspondent, with criminal defamation.⁹⁰ The charges were initiated by complaints from members of the ruling party.⁹¹
- September 13, 2021: Carlos Alberto, editor of *Portal A Denúncia*, was convicted by the Luanda Provincial Court of criminal defamation, injurious denunciation, and violating press freedom.⁹² Alberto was sentenced to a suspended three-year prison term, a repeated apology, and a fine.⁹³ The charges stemmed from a report on alleged misconduct by then-Deputy Attorney General Luis Liz, who filed the complaint.⁹⁴

2022

- March 16, 2022: Police questioned Father Alberto Java, director of the Catholic Church's Radio *Ecclésia Huambo*, along with reporters José Kalembe and Diamantino Sanguene, concerning a criminal defamation and insult complaint arising from a report of a police commandant's alleged involvement in arms trafficking.⁹⁵

- June 20, 2022: A court held a hearing on criminal defamation and insult charges against Óscar Constantino, a reporter for Radio Ecclésia, over a report on an election official's resignation amid misconduct allegations.⁹⁶

2023

- September 21, 2023: Liberato Furtado Pereira, a reporter for Radio Luanda, faced criminal defamation and insult charges for his reporting on alleged diversion of government funds by a prosecutor.⁹⁷
- September 29, 2023: Authorities re-arrested Carlos Alberto, for allegedly failing to comply with his sentence in a criminal defamation case, which included a suspended three-year prison term, a repeated apology, and a fine.⁹⁸ At the date of this submission, Alberto remains in jail, serving his sentence.
- October 4, 2023: A Luanda district court ordered Daniel Frederico, editor of *Reporter Angola*, to appear on criminal defamation and insult charges based on his investigation of corruption allegations.⁹⁹

2024

- May 17, 2024: *Folha 8* editor William Tonet faced a criminal defamation and insult charges over a report of allegations against a former judge.¹⁰⁰

Invocation of anti-terror and anti-state charges against journalists

2023

- March 15, 2023: Website *Camunda News* indefinitely suspended operations after one of its contributors, Nelson Dembo, faced criminal charges, including “incitement to rebellion and outrage against the president.”¹⁰¹

2024

- January 25, 2024: The proposed National Security Bill, which would give the Angolan government the power to censor broadcasting and “disrupt telecommunication services,” passed a first vote in the National Assembly.¹⁰² The bill would also authorize police surveillance, the closure of public premises, and prohibition of movement.¹⁰³

Suspension of broadcasts and broadcast permissions

2021

- April 19, 2021: The state Ministry of Telecommunications Technologies and Media ordered all three nationwide TV operators to cease airing content from Record TV Africa, Vida TV, and Zap Viva, alleging that the production companies violated registration and press laws.¹⁰⁴ The move came in advance of the 2022 general elections.¹⁰⁵

2023

- March 15, 2023: Website *Camunda News* suspended operations indefinitely after one of its contributors, Nelson Dembo, faced criminal charges, including “incitement to rebellion and outrage against the president.”¹⁰⁶

References

¹ MISA: Angola’s website, available at <https://misangola.org>, is temporarily offline for renovation and maintenance.

² The submitters define “journalists” as people who cover news or comment on public affairs in print, in photographs, on radio, on television, or online. Writers, editors, publishers, producers, technicians, photographers, camera operators, and directors of news organizations are all included. See Committee to Protect Journalists, “Frequently Asked Questions”, available at: <https://cpj.org/about/faq/>.

³ See Constitution of the Republic of Angola, adopted on 21 January 2010, Article 12 available at: [Angola: Constitution \(2010\) - English version — \(aceproject.org\)](https://www.aceproject.org/angola-constitution-2010-english-version).

⁴ *Id.* at Article 40.

⁵ African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights (2019) Declaration of the Principles on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Africa, Adopted at 65th Ordinary Session, 21 October to 10 November 2019, p. 7, available at: <https://ihrda.uwazi.io/pt/entity/ro88vuss99?page=3>.

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ *Id.* at pp. 10-11.

⁸ *Id.* at p. 16, Principle 19(1).

⁹ *Id.* at p. 16, Principles 20(1) and 20(2).

¹⁰ African Union, African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights, African Charter of Human and Peoples’ Rights, available at: <https://achpr.au.int/en/charter/african-charter-human-and-peoples-rights>.

¹¹ *Id.* at Article 9.

¹² *Id.* at Article 7(1).

¹³ United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Status of Ratification Interactive Dashboard, available at: [- OHCHR Dashboard](#)

¹⁴ United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Articles 19(1) and 19(2), available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/international-covenant-civil-and-political-rights>.

¹⁵ *Id.* at Article 19(3).

¹⁶ United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 14, available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/international-covenant-civil-and-political-rights>.

¹⁷ Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment, Principle 15, available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/body-principles-protection-all-persons-under-any-form-detention>.

¹⁸ *Id.* at Principle 17.

¹⁹ Committee to Protect Journalists (Oct. 4, 2022), “Angolan opposition journalist’s wife assaulted in apparent retaliation for his reporting,” available at: <https://cpj.org/2022/10/angolan-opposition-journalists-wife-assaulted-in-apparent-retaliation-for-his-reporting/>.

²⁰ Committee to Protect Journalists (Jan. 18, 2022), “Angolan public media journalists assaulted, branded ‘sellouts’ while covering nationwide strike,” available at: <https://cpj.org/2022/01/angolan-public-media-journalists-assaulted-branded-sellouts-while-covering-nationwide-strike/>.

²¹ Committee to Protect Journalists (Oct. 27, 2020), “Angolan police detain, harass, and beat journalists covering protests,” available at: [Angolan police detain, harass, and beat journalists covering protests - Committee to Protect Journalists \(cpj.org\)](https://cpj.org/2020/10/angolan-police-detain-harass-and-beat-journalists-covering-protests).

²² *Id.*

²³ *Id.*

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- ²⁴ Committee to Protect Journalists (May 3, 2022), “Angolan security forces attack journalists covering evictions in Luanda,” available at: <https://cpj.org/2022/05/angolan-security-forces-attack-journalists-covering-evictions-in-luanda/>.
- ²⁵ Committee to Protect Journalists (July 21, 2022), “Angolan journalists harassed while covering election rallies,” available at: <https://cpj.org/2022/07/angolan-journalists-harassed-while-covering-election-rallies/>.
- ²⁶ Committee to Protect Journalists (Oct. 27, 2020), “Angolan police detain, harass, and beat journalists covering protests,” available at: [Angolan police detain, harass, and beat journalists covering protests - Committee to Protect Journalists \(cpj.org\)](https://cpj.org/2020/10/angolan-police-detain-harass-and-beat-journalists-covering-protests).
- ²⁷ *Id.*
- ²⁸ Committee to Protect Journalists (May 17, 2024), “Angola journalist William Tonet’s home invaded by gunman as defamation case continues,” available at: <https://cpj.org/2024/05/angola-journalist-william-tonets-home-invaded-by-gunman-as-defamation-case-continues/>.
- ²⁹ Committee to Protect Journalists (Apr. 15, 2021), “Angolan journalist Jorge Manuel arrested, detained for 5 days while reporting on evictions,” available at: <https://cpj.org/2021/04/angolan-journalist-jorge-manuel-arrested-detained-for-5-days-while-reporting-on-evictions/>.
- ³⁰ The Media Institute of Southern Africa Zimbabwe, “The State of Press Freedom in Southern Africa 2019/2020,” available at: <https://www.mediasupport.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Revised-SAPFR-2019-2020.pdf>, p. 5.
- ³¹ Committee to Protect Journalists (Aug. 17, 2022), “VOA correspondent briefly detained covering attempted election protest in Angola,” available at: [VOA correspondent briefly detained covering attempted election protest in Angola - Committee to Protect Journalists \(cpj.org\)](https://cpj.org/2022/08/voa-correspondent-briefly-detained-covering-attempted-election-protest-in-angola).
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