



INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF JURISTS

Commission internationale de juristes - Comisión Internacional de Juristas

"Dedicated since 1952 to the primacy, coherence and implementation of international law and principles that advance human rights"

JOHANNESBURG, 30 August 2012

THE ICJ CONDEMNS THE ABDUCTION OF WAR VETERANS IN ANGOLA

The International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) notes with concern reports of the alleged abduction of two war veterans, Messrs. António Alces Kamulingue and Isaias Sebastião Cassule, in Luanda, Angola on 27 and 29 May 2012, respectively by a group of men who were dressed in civilian clothing and who have been instrumental in the violent suppression of peaceful demonstrations in Angola. Though this group of men has been reported to the police, it would appear that this group acts with impunity. It is therefore feared that this group is associated with or acts with the acquiescence of the internal security police of Angola.

It is reported that the war veterans were preparing to participate in demonstrations calling upon the government of Angola to pay pensions and salaries owed to them. Furthermore, Messrs Kamulingue and Cassule were also reportedly participants in certain anti-government demonstrations that have been taking place in Luanda since March 2011 and which have been violently suppressed.

The constitution of Angola requires that the Republic of Angola as a state, be based on the rule of law and upholds the protection and promotion of human rights. The rights to freedom of assembly and expression are specifically guaranteed, along with compliance with international instruments, which guarantee these rights, of which Angola is a state party. Law enforcement agencies play an integral role in the protection of human rights and in taking action against human rights violators. Where law enforcement agencies neglect this critical duty, they contribute to the attack against the rule of law itself.

"People have the right to exercise their human rights and freedoms freely without intimidation, harassment or violent attacks against them. Members of society who boldly take on the role of human rights defenders are protected in terms of national, regional and international instruments", commented Arnold Tsunga, Director of the ICJ Africa Regional Programme. "Enforced disappearances are a severe violation of human rights principles and are banned completely under international law where they constitute a continuing crime until resolved", he

The ICJ is an international non-governmental organisation comprising sixty of the world's most eminent jurists and has a worldwide network of national sections and affiliated organisations

33, rue des Bains, P.O. Box 216, 1211 Geneva 8, Switzerland
Tel: +41(0) 22 979 3800 – Fax: +41(0) 22 979 3801 – Website: <http://www.icj.org> – E-mail: info@icj.org

P
R
E
S
S

R
E
L
E
A
S
E

continued.

The ICJ calls upon the government of Angola to urgently:

- Release Messrs Kamuningue and Cassule, if indeed they are in the custody of the Angolan authorities;
- Grant Messrs Kamuningue and Cassule access to legal counsel and their families in the event that they are charged with a recognizable criminal offence;
- Ensure that the matter of the enforced disappearance of Messrs Kamuningue and Cassule is thoroughly investigated, in the event that they are not in the custody of the authorities;
- Bring to justice those responsible for the abduction of Messrs Kamuningue and Cassule.

For further information, please contact the ICJ Arnold Tsunga at arnold.tsunga@icj.org or +27 73 131 8411 or +27 11 024 8268. Director- ICJ Africa Regional Programme