
Angola

Civil Society Report on the Implementation of the ICCPR (Prior to the List of Issues CCPR/C/ANG/1)

LARDEF - A Liga de Apoio à Integração dos Deficientes

FORDU - Fórum Regional para o Desenvolvimento Universitário

Associação OMUNGA

PMA - Plataforma Mulheres em Acção

ADSA - Associação para o Desenvolvimento da Saúde em Angola

NCC - Centro Nacional de Aconselhamento

AJPD - Associação Justiça, Paz e Democracia

ACC - Associação Construindo Comunidades

Angola 2000

CCDH - Conselho de Coordenação dos Direitos Humanos

ML - Associação Mãos Livres

Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa (OSISA)

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REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA

This report was initially prepared for the 51st session of African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (April – May 2012). It was submitted by 12 Angolan civil society human rights organizations based in different provinces of the country and reviews the implementation of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights. With the support of the Centre for Civil and Political Rights, the initial document was reformatted and summarized in line with the ICCPR and is presented to the Human Rights Committee for the adoption of the List of Issues, at its 105th session (July 2012).

Authors of the report:

LARDEF - A Liga de Apoio à Integração dos Deficientes (The Support League for the Integration of Disabled Persons) is an organization of disabled people founded in 1997 to defend the cause of people with disabilities: to promote, represent and defend the participation, rights and interests of persons with disabilities. It aims to establish and develop programs, projects and actions to ensure equal opportunities for people with disabilities as well as the promotion, participation and full integration of persons with disabilities. Its vision is to create a seamless environment in which people with disabilities are integrated into society and their rights are respected.

FORDU - Fórum Regional para o Desenvolvimento Universitário (Regional Forum for the Development of Higher Education) is a philanthropic organization of voluntary, non-partisan, secular and non-profit, established according to Angolan law in 2005. Its mission is to ***fight poverty by improving educational practices raising people's awareness and the exercise of economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights***. The organization's social purpose is: to promote quality education, competent and competitive through scientific research, academic and professional overruns thematic development and training.

Associação OMUNGA (OMUNGA Association) emerged in 1998 as a project of the OKUTIUKA-APAV organization. Since 2000, it supports the process of empowerment giving priority to the OMUNGA project due to its specificity and the state of development. In fact, a protocol was established between the coordination of OKUTIUKA-APAV and OMUNGA and in which that establishes the responsibilities and conditions of that empowerment. Its mission is to promote, publicize and monitor nationwide, policies for children and youth to ensure the exercise of their rights and duties.

PMA - Plataforma Mulheres em Ação (Women in Action Platform) is a network of organizations working for the defense and promotion of Women's Human Rights, as well as the promotion of gender balance in Angola. Its mission is to promote the effective participation of women in political and public life through training its women's rights member organizations, as well as promoting gender justice in Angola.

ADSA - Associação para o Desenvolvimento da Saúde em Angola (Association for Health Development in Angola) established in 2001, has as its main goal the promotion of wellness bio-psycho-social communities. Its main activity is advocacy for the right to free, public and quality education young Angolans.

NCC - Centro Nacional de Aconselhamento (National Advocacy Center) - is an organization of Angolan civil society, national in scope and headquarters in Luanda. Since its founding date (1999),

NCC has been implementing its projects in four main areas: **Citizenship, Psycho-Medical-Ethical Human, Legal and Community Development and Legal and Human Rights.**

AJPD - Associação Justiça, Paz e Democracia (The Association for Justice, Peace and Democracy) is a national, nonpartisan, voluntary organization with legal status in Angola, open to all men and women of good will. It aims to contribute to the active, conscious and responsible work of all Angolans in the process of consolidation of the democratic process, the rule of law, peace, development and strengthening of respect for human rights in Angola in a peacefully manner and respecting democratic legality. Its mission is to contribute and work in advocacy of the rights of citizens and communities in Angola through programs and projects for the protection of human rights and citizenship.

ACC - Associação Construindo Comunidades (Association Constructing Communities) works in advocacy of Land Rights, human development and human rights in traditional and agro-pastoral communities in the municipalities of Chibia and Gambos. The Association works predominately in the periphery of urban areas in Tchavola, Tchimúkwa and Mutundo and where houses were demolished by the government without any compensation in March and September of 2010. Its mission is to work with state institutions, government and civil society to promote social inclusion, the exercise of citizenship and a culture of human rights for fair use of the land and natural resources.

Angola 2000 has goals are to: promote a culture of peace in and among communities; plan, monitor and evaluate activities aimed at national disarmament, demobilization, human rights, democracy and violence; strengthen community organizations through a sense of belonging and sustainability of projects in the areas of intervention. Its vision is: a safe, peaceful and developed Angola supported by effective institutions and with active social, economic and political participation of citizens of the country.

CCDH - Conselho de Coordenação dos Direitos Humanos (The Coordinating Council for Human Rights), is an organization with independent legal status, not accounting for its members' actions unless duly authorized. It aims to: inform, train, educate and promote cultural relations to raise awareness about human rights, develop advocacy of non-governmental organizations towards state bodies and international partners; adopt public positions or complaint when human rights are violated; prepare annual reports on human rights in Angola.

ML - Associação Mãos Livres (Association Free Hands) is an Angolan organization that advocates in court and out of them in the name of citizens lacking financial means. Its objectives are: to provide free legal assistance to communities and people lacking financial resources, defend and disseminate the fundamental rights of citizens under the Constitution of Angola and the international human rights instruments to which Angola is a State Party, giving greater attention to dissemination and defend individual cases of violation of human rights. Its mission is to promote and defend the fundamental rights of citizens, contributing to social stability of families, peace and democracy in Angola.

Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa (OSISA) is a growing African institution committed to deepening democracy, protecting human rights and enhancing good governance in the region. OSISA's vision is to promote and sustain the ideals, values, institutions and practices of open society, with the aim of establishing vibrant and tolerant southern African democracies in which people, free from material and other deprivation, understand their rights and responsibilities and participate actively in all spheres of life.

ANGOLAN CIVIL SOCIETY SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION TO THE ANGOLA PERIODIC REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

PART 1 – BACKGROUND

Introduction:

The issues addressed in this document are based on information from the Angolan Government on the implementation of civil and political rights. Analysis of the report found several inaccuracies in the information provided by the Angolan Government. Angolan civil society organizations worked according to their area of expertise, namely, general information on the administration of justice system, the right to participation, nationality and access to public and political services; and general legal, political and socio-economic framework for the elimination of discrimination against women, protection of persons with disabilities; restrictions or limitations on the exercise of fundamental freedoms of citizens, freedom of expression and information, freedom of press, and the right of reply. Related to the above mentioned issues, we present questions and recommendations.

General Concerns

The organizations subscribing to this document found that much of the information from the Angolan State is outdated, as is the case with reference to the process of adoption of the Law on Domestic Violence, which was already approved in 2011.

PART 2 – Summary and methodology

The Angolan organizations that subscribe this document hope to contribute to the analysis of the implementation of Civil and Political Rights by the Republic of Angola and offer a diagnosis on the provision of human rights in the country, as well as make recommendations that will promote and improve respect for human rights in Angola.

We identified themes for which we present our concerns and identify alternatives to ensure the rights and freedoms related to them are guaranteed. As a reference, we use the information on the situation of human rights disclosed by the Angolan State.

PART 3 – Thematic analysis

THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

Information disclosed by the Angolan government

1. The State acknowledges the existence of 19 Provincial Courts and 19 Municipal Courts. However, Angola is composed of 163 Municipalities¹
2. The small number of courts in the country is reason for great concern. For example, the country's capital (Luanda) has three Municipal Courts for a region that encompasses 9 municipalities.

Angolan civil society is concerned that:

¹ Data based on historic political administrative designations in Angola.

3. We note that the issues acknowledged by the State on citizens' access to courts, to legal representation and independence and performance of judges are dealt with in a superficial, theoretical and very formal manner and fail to focus on facts, events and practical cases.

Access to Justice – article 14 ICCPR

Information disclosed by the Angolan government

19. The Angolan Government acknowledges that citizens resort to the courts without discrimination in their right, power and duty to sue and be sued. Legal representation and assistance is guaranteed to all without prejudice, and free of charge.

Angolan civil society is concerned that:

4. Access to courts is limited due to small number of courts in the country.
5. According to the Angolan Constitution provisions of law relating to fundamental rights shall be interpreted, integrated and applied in harmony with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, however we observe discrepancy between the law and reality.
6. Courts' functioning is undermined by magistrates' lack of social conditions and lack of administrative and financial autonomy.
7. Limitations to the access to justice, the absence of a culture and education in human rights, political intolerance and the fact that national reconciliation is not yet effective feeds the practice of doing justice by one's own hands. In addition, often police and state security use the practice of extra judicial and summary executions as well as torture and mistreatment at police stations without being accountable for their actions in contravention of **article 7** of the ICCPR.
8. The judicial process is delayed by the lack of knowledge and information of various legal instruments by Angolans, lack of governmental educational campaigns and the small number of judges.
9. Currently there are a number of public complaints about alleged cases of corruption involving public agencies that so far have received no official pronouncement from authorities. This is another factor that contributes to the negative image of the Angolan justice system.
10. Although the Executive is considering aspects of mediation of conflict as part of the current justice reform law intended to allow citizens to access justice without resorting to courts and reduce the burden of court cases, government should also establish clear mechanisms to promote and disseminate legal concepts of the justice system.
11. In relation to legal representation, the Constitution of the Republic of Angola stipulates in Article Art 29, Paragraph 2 the following **"Everyone is entitled under the law, to legal information and consultation, to legal assistance and to be accompanied by a lawyer before any authority,"** but the reality is that the level of legal coverage is minimal, also ensured by **article 14 para. 3 (d)** of the ICCPR.
12. It has not been easy for people without financial resources to obtain the services of a lawyer to monitor their processes. However, through the institution of legal aid people without financial resources can use the Bar Association to appoint a public defender, the fact is that in most cases

this sponsorship is of poor quality and there is no monitoring by senior lawyers of services provided by defense counsel.

13. The little that has been done for these people has been through the support of some civil society organizations, in particular, Mãos Livres (ML) and the Association for Justice, Peace and Democracy (AJPD) under its Social Advocacy Project. In face of this situation, the Angolan government must find mechanisms to ensure the most disadvantaged citizens the right to legal defense.
14. Despite constant improvements in the working conditions and salaries paid in the justice sector, unfortunately, the independence of judges and their performance is still constrained by political motivations and decisions; in most cases they cannot be impartial during the trial as the result of excessive political power over the judiciary in Angola. Examples of this nature often take place in trials of cases of youths detained in peaceful demonstrations that seek to challenge the political-social situation of the country.

The situations listed above denote a clear violation of the provisions of Article 23, paragraph 1 of the Constitution of the Republic of Angola, and Article 14 of International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Prison Conditions – article 10 ICCPR

Information disclosed by the Angolan government

The Angolan government acknowledges that the disproportion between the number of inmates and the detention capacity is reason for great embarrassment, the difficulties of the work and role of the prison service, the implementation of a range of legislative action, especially the Penitentiary Law (Law no. 8/08 August 29), the Law on Specific Career for Prison Service (decree n. º 43/99 December 24), and the Rules for Labor Organization in Prisons (decree no. 64th / 04 October 1st.) and also enhances the construction of six new prisons under the country's prison service modernization plan

Angolan civil society is concerned that:

15. Prison conditions in Angola, in practical terms, require caution because passing of new legislation and its entry into force does not mean that they are effectively implemented. The discourse recognizing the constraints between the number of inmates and the detention capacity is old. Angolan Government has always recognized this, but actions to change this situation are almost inexistent.
16. The facts demonstrate that even with the construction of new detention centers, prisons are still overcrowded. Civil Society Organizations repeatedly denounced the overcrowding in prisons and prison conditions where citizens are detained beyond the time limits prescribed by law. It is worth noting that the Justice Ombudsman, Paulo Tjipilica, stated publicly² during a visit to the Central Prison in Luanda, on August 30, 2011, the existence of a large number of detainees in prisons in the country.
17. The Attorney General of the Republic, João Maria de Sousa, in public statements,³ on January 14, 2012, said that Angola currently has a detained population estimated at 20,000 and that to

²Source: Rádio Nacional, *Jornal de Angola* and Angop- August 30, 2011

³ Source: Rádio Nacional, *Jornal de Angola* and Angop, January 14, 2012

maintain the prison system the Angolan government expends about US\$7.2 million, which constitutes a major financial burden for the state.

18. The Angolan prisons need to be more humane and the prison system needs to adopt appropriate policies to guarantee the detainees' rights in accordance with the Guidelines Rubín Island.
19. On the other hand, the scarce technical training - training of prison personnel and the lack of a clear state policy for the re-socialization of prisoners contributes to some extent to the degrading situation in prisons.
20. The Angolan Government must set clear policies that make it less harmful to prisoners' lives in order to reintegrate and re-socialize them in the community after they complete their sentence.
21. Communication between prison and society is poor in Angola. This makes individual detainees less useful and able to return to live in society.
22. With this procedure, the Angolan government is not only violating **Art. 31., No. 2** of the Constitution, it is also violating **art. 10** of the ICCPR.
23. Civil society organizations face difficulties to contact detainees and prison authorities undermine their work in the prisons.

Questions for the Angolan Government:

24. What mechanisms will the Angolan government adopt to ensure that all citizens, regardless of their origin, race, sex, and social-economic background may appeal to ensure their fundamental rights and their access to legal representation?
25. What are the policies adopted by the State to make justice more accessible to citizens?
26. What measures will be adopted by the Angolan government to avoid corruption, nepotism and other practices that undermine the country's social development?
27. What practices are being adopted by the Angolan Government for the dissemination and information of laws to combat inequality and social exclusion in Angola?
28. What measures will be taken by the Angolan Government to combat arbitrary detention, torture and illegal detention, especially when citizens exercise their right to demonstrate peacefully and without arms, guaranteed in the Constitution of the Republic of Angola, Article 47 and in Articles 7 and 9 of the ICCPR.

Recommendations to the Angolan Government:

29. Facilitate mechanisms that enable access to legal representation and increase salaries of public defenders.
30. Give priority to the expansion of municipal courts and their respective support services.
31. Adopt policies that encourage and attract new staff to reduce the deficit of magistrates.

32. End all discriminatory practices and social exclusion in access of justice.
33. Stop repression, arbitrary arrests, torture and illegal detention, thereby respecting the provisions of Article 47 of the Constitution of the Republic of Angola and Articles 7 and 9 of the ICCPR.
34. Implement the existing legal mechanism and strengthen other instruments to combat corruption in the justice system.

INFORMATION ON THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE, NATIONALITY AND ACCESS TO PUBLIC AND POLITICAL SERVICES

35. The State acknowledges citizen participation in public life. It mentions also that citizenship is acquired through civil registration. However, increasingly the government creates mechanisms to curb individuals and organizations from participating in public life taken critical positions on the management of public funds.
36. The issues presented in fact have been included in the Constitution but the Government still needs to implement the changes in practical life, and from the perspective of the ICCPR. References to the Constitution and other national and international legal instruments referring to various social, economic, political, cultural and religious identity issues in Angola are notorious. In other words, the State stresses that the Constitution guarantees a set of civil and political Rights and describes the articles in which they are established.

Angolan civil society is concerned that:

37. In Angola the minimum wage is about US\$100.00 however, the total cost for the civil registry in Kw\$7,000 about US\$70.00 thus, this cost hinders the neediest citizens from their right to identity.
38. To get the ID card citizens need to get a copy of their birth certificate at the cost of Kw\$3,850.00 (US\$38.50) and pay Kw\$450.00 (US\$4.50) in fees adding to a total of about US\$43.00.
39. The lack of documentation makes the exercise of citizenship very difficult and prevents access to constitutionally guaranteed rights (schools, healthcare, banking and employment).
40. The lack of legal recognition also prevents citizens from full enjoyment of the many constitutionally guaranteed rights such as **voting rights**, as well as access to **public service** in contravention of **article 25** of the ICCPR.

Questions for the Angolan Government:

41. How can a government facilitate participation in public life when a significant proportion of its population does not have the necessary documentation to access public services?

Recommendations for the Angolan Government:

42. Provide services of civil registration and birth certification free of charge so citizenship can be effective for all.

CURRENT GENERAL SOCIO-POLITICAL-ECONOMIC AND LEGAL SITUATION FOR THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN – GENDER EQUALITY - ARTICLE 3 OF THE ICCPR

Information disclosed by the Angolan government

43. The State refers to best practice, but data cannot be considered reliable because the Angolan Executive is the sole source, undermining the principles of participation and impartiality.

Angolan civil society is concerned that:

44. Early marriage due to cultural traditions and socio-economic status of women in rural areas puts severe restrictions on social development of women and adolescent girls;

45. In households women, mothers and teenage daughters carry a clear burden as caregivers for family members;

46. Domestic violence continues to be the greatest impediment to achieving gender equity in Angola;

47. The Law Against Domestic Violence, Law No. 25/11 of July 14, 2011 was approved but has not yet been regulated which makes its implementation ineffective.

48. There are few protection mechanisms for women's rights in terms of succession of property or assets after the death of their husbands.

49. Psychological assistance and law enforcement support to women victims of domestic violence and sexual discrimination because of serological status (HIV/AIDS) is very limited.

Questions for the Angolan Government

50. What are the measures taken to reduce and banish early marriage?

51. The Law Against Domestic Violence provides for the establishment of reception centers, training of specialists to care for women and victims of domestic violence in police stations and hospitals. What steps have been made to enforce the Law on Domestic Violence?

52. Why hasn't the Angolan government yet adopted a National Action Plan to prevent gender violence in accordance with the goals of the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development?

53. What are the legal measures taken to ensure inheritance rights of women?

Recommendations to the Angolan Government:

54. Adopt a National Plan of Action to prevent gender violence.

55. Complete the gender policy, pending since 2007 in order to enforce the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development.

56. Put into force the Law Against Domestic Violence.

57. Improve and strengthen health services in particular those geared to assist children and pregnant women.

58. Improve the means of informing youth and adolescents on sexual and reproductive health at counseling centers.

RESTRICTIONS OR LIMITATIONS IN THE RIGHT TO EXERCISE FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

Information disclosed by the Angolan government

59. The State acknowledges the existence of laws, but does not mention any event in which there have been limitations to the exercise of fundamental rights and freedoms.

Angolan civil society is concerned that:

- 60. Many citizens have voting cards but have no identity cards or other personal identity document.
- 61. Several arbitrary arrests of civic activists and citizens in the exercise of the right to demonstrate in the provinces of Luanda, Benguela, Cabinda, and Kwanza Norte were registered from 2009 to 2011, in contravention to **article 21** of the ICCPR.
- 62. Activists from various civil society organizations and political parties have been threatened, harassed, detained and tortured and in more extreme cases, victims of psychological and physical abuse and even arrested in contravention to articles **7, 9 and 19** of the ICCPR.

Questions for the Angolan Government

63. What are the mechanisms of protection of human rights defenders in the country?

Recommendations to the Angolan Government:

- 64. Publish government reports on the situation of human rights to be submitted to international and regional human rights protection systems;
- 65. Curb restrictive practices to the right to demonstrate in accordance to the provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of Angola and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.
- 66. Install standards on the right of habeas corpus, habeas data petition and popular action.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND INFORMATION – ARTICLE 19 OF THE ICCPR.

Information disclosed by the Angolan government

67. The report acknowledges the existence of a set of laws, although one has been repealed (No. 22/91 Press Law of January 15, 1991 which was repealed by Law No. 7/2006 of May 15, 2006) but fails to acknowledge events in which there have been limitations to the right of freedom of expression and information.

Angolan civil society is concerned that:

68. Angola does not have specific legislation that guarantees access to information as in other jurisdictions, which forms part of the freedom of expression recognized in **article 19** of the ICCPR. There are some disperse, obscure, and less known rules and legislation with regards to the access of information.

Questions for the Angolan Government:

69. When will specific law on Access to Information be drafted?
70. When will Articles 2 and 26 of the Law of Secrecy of the State, Law No. 10/02 of August 16, Article 77 of Law No. 10/04 on Petroleum, Section 58 paragraph 1 and 2 of Executive Decree 88/08 of July 11 and executive Decree 67/07 August 22, 2007, the duty of confidentiality and that all legislation that contradicts the Constitution of the Republic of Angola in its Article 40 and 44 be revised?⁴
71. Taking into consideration that the Angolan government during its candidacy to the UN Human Rights Council stated that it would invite the UN Special Rapporteur and the African Union on Freedom of Speech and Press Special Rapporteur to visit Angola, when will the government formalize its invitations?

Recommendations to the Angolan Government:

72. Develop a specific law on access to information, to be in conformity with **article 19 of the ICCPR**.
73. Consider civil society contributions to the proposed legislation on broadcasting and television service, the National Council for Social Communications; the Statute of Journalists and the Law on Advertising.
74. Reduce the legal and bureaucratic barriers and stimulate the creation of new media throughout the country, giving priority to community radio stations.
75. Formulate specific legislation to regulate the activity of community broadcasters;
76. Formalize the invitation to the UN and the African Union Special Rapporteurs on Freedom of Speech and Press to evaluate the situation of freedom of speech and press in Angola.

FREEDOM OF PRESS – ARTICLE 19 OF THE ICCPR

Information contained in the official report by the Angolan government

77. The State acknowledges the existence of a set of laws, although one of the laws has been repealed (No. 22/91 Press Law of 15 January, which was repealed by Law No. 7/2006 of 15 May 2006) but does not acknowledge any event in where there have been limitations to freedom of expression and information.

Angolan civil society is concerned that:

78. The 2011 Committee to Protect Journalists report stated that many international and civil society organizations in Angola have already reported on laws restricting the work of professionals, such as the Criminal Code, from 1886, that provides a penalty of six months in prison for defamation of public officials.
79. The deregulation of the Press Law passed in 2006.
80. The acquisition of private newspapers holding companies by large business groups with links to political power and funds of dubious origin.
81. Designation of some of the State media instruments to the Head of State's children.

⁴ Angola Constitution, Article 40, (1): Everyone shall have the right to freely express, publicize and share their ideas and opinions through words, images or any other medium, as well as the right and the freedom to inform others, to inform themselves and to be informed, without hindrance or discrimination; and Article 44, (1). Freedom of the press shall be guaranteed, and may not be subject to prior censorship, namely of a political, ideological or artistic nature.

- 82. Licensing of broadcasting and public television activities remains under the State's responsibility, blocking free access to such activities by private enterprises with no connection to political power.
- 83. Censorship of journalistic activity, especially in newspapers acquired by large private economic groups linked to the political power.
- 84. Deception, intimidation and detention of journalists.
- 85. Lack of investigation on deaths and death attempts on the life of journalists from private media.

Questions for the Angolan Government:

- 86. When will the press law be regulated to be in conformity with **article 19** of the ICCPR?
- 87. When will there be an independent body with powers to license the activity of radio and television broadcasting?
- 88. When will the Statute of the National Council for Social Communications be revised to give this body more independence and power to inspect public documents on policies related to media and arbitration of potential conflicts?
- 89. Why was Rádio Mais authorized to broadcast in some provinces, to the detriment of other private radio stations that expressed the same goal (Rádio Ecclésia and Rádio Despertar)?
- 90. According to UNESCO, community radio stations should be initiated and managed by communities. Why did the Angolan government take the leading role in the creation of community radio stations?
- 91. Considering that the Press Law provides for awards and incentives to private media, what is the criterion for the allocation of incentives to private media?

Recommendations to the Angolan Government:

- 92. Adjust the Press Law, Law No. 7/2006 of May 15, in accordance with the provisions of Article No. 87 of the same law;
- 93. Implement the Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression in Africa in particular Article 5 of the Private Broadcasting System.⁵
- 94. The National Council for Social Communication (CNCS) should be a fully independent body not to supervise but to review public acts and policies related to media as well as arbitration power in case of potential conflicts.
- 95. Members of the CNCS should not be nominated based on proportionality for political parties represented in the National Assembly of the Republic of Angola, since the ultimate goal is to defend non-partisan national affairs. Therefore, we recommend that the CNCS members should be nominated by National Assembly and that its advisory board include different Angolan groups as a form of democratic participation.

RIGHT OF REPLY

Angolan civil society is concerned that:

- 96. The use of public media to favor the ruling party at the expense of other political organizations.
- 97. The insufficient international media coverage of the electoral process.

⁵ Article 5, about Private Radio Broadcasting, (1): The States should incentivize diverse and independent private radio broadcasting. State monopoly of radio broadcasting is not compatible with the right to freedom of expression.

Questions for the Angolan Government:

98. What mechanisms will be adopted to ensure equal access to public media by all political parties before, during and after the election?
99. What are the institutions that will monitor equal access to public media for all political parties?

Recommendations to the Angolan Government

100. Enable the various existing initiatives to operate more channels of radio and expand TV coverage.
101. Guarantee that the public media is independent and non-partisan.
102. Given the national reconciliation process under way, eliminate disrespectful messages that appeal to stereotypes and undermine reconciliation.
103. Facilitate the process for obtaining entry visas for foreign journalists wishing to cover the electoral process in Angola.

CONCLUSION

Ten years ago, the achievement of peace was a memorable mark changing the lives of people in Angola significantly. The Angolan government incorporated some changes in its constitution with the recognition of the rights, freedoms and guarantees of citizens including the acceptance of the application of international human rights instruments.

However, this recognition seems to be only a formality. In the past 12 months there have been increasing restrictions and limitations to civil and political rights against the commitments that the Angolan government has taken internationally. It is therefore important that authorities and public servants continue to benefit from training courses on human rights and that the State continue to hold their representatives accountable for their actions and compensate victims of human rights violations.

It is also important that Angola ratify some Protocols including the Protocol to the African Charter on the Establishment of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, the African Charter on Elections and Governance, the Convention on the Protection and Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons in Africa, and the Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption in Africa. This would allow for an effective institutionalization of the African Mechanisms of Human Rights.