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High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission  
Federica Mogherini

Brussels, 6 March 2019

*Dear Federica,*

I would like to bring to your attention the dire Human Rights situation in the Angolan province of Cabinda.

Even though the Human Rights situation in Angola in general seems to be slowly getting better, especially in terms of freedom of expression, the situation in Cabinda is very different. According to Human Rights activist José Marcos Mavungo - who had to flee the country two years ago, after spending 18 months in prison -, in this province people are still persecuted if they express their ideas or protest about the dire living conditions for the people of Cabinda<sup>1</sup>.

The situation is exacerbated by the fact that there are groups fighting for the independence of the Cabinda province. Under the pretext of fighting those separatists, citizens are often arbitrarily arrested. Between 28 and 31 of February 74 people were arrested, a few days before a pacific demonstration they were organising.

Moreover, I would like to highlight the case of three Congolese men unjustly arrested in 2012 in Cabinda, and who should have been liberated in 2015 since the Supreme Court absolved them of their crimes: Mr. Richard Nsabwa Mukendi, Mr. Boyeye Marc Eyoku and Mr. Mbuassi Kitunta François. You can find more details about this case in attachment of this e-mail.

I therefore ask you to urge the Angolan authorities to treat Cabinda citizens equally to other Angolan citizens and ensure that freedom and Human Rights are respected in that province. In addition, I urge you to look into the case of these three Congolese men and call for their release.

*Best regards,  
Ana Gomes*

Ana Gomes  
Member of the European Parliament

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.dw.com/pt-002/direitos-humanos-avan%C3%A7os-em-angola-e-recuos-em-mo%C3%A7ambique/a-46661792>