



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

José Manuel Barroso
President of the European Commission

Baroness Catherine Ashton of Upholland
Vice-President/High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

Brussels, 17 October 2013

*Dear Mr. President
Dear Vice-President/HR, dear Cathy,*

Subject: detention of Nito Alves in Angola

A 17-year-old boy named Nito Alves was detained on September 12 in Luanda, Angola, for distributing t-shirts calling Angolan President Dos Santos a "nasty dictator". His detention - mostly incommunicado - is illegal under Angolan law. He should have stayed at home pending court hearings regarding the charges of "outrage against the president" brought against him - the first time someone is being charged with this "offence."

He had a first private conversation with his lawyer on October 6, which could not be private. Before that, the lawyers were prevented access to him. After being held incommunicado and in an isolated cell, he is now in a cell with highly criminal adults at the Luanda central prison (Cadeia Central de Luanda). The cell has very poor sanitary conditions. He suffers from diarrhea and vomits a lot, but has not had medical assistance.

According to Angolan legislation, as a minor, he cannot be held in pre-trial detention. The lawyers requested the Attorney-General's office to release him to await his trial in freedom, but have not received any answer yet.

Has the EU Delegation asked to visit Nito Alves in prison? Was it successful?

Has the EU pressed the Angolan authorities to release Nito Alves? What assurances can you provide about the situation of this young prisoner?

Best regards,

Ana Gomes
Member of the European Parliament