

PUBLIC

AI Index: AFR 42/04/98

This is a limited action. Please restrict appeals to 20 per section

10 June 1998

Further information on UA 161/98 (AFR 42/02/98, 21 May 1998) - Fear for safety of human rights activist / Possible "disappearance" and new concern: Forcible repatriation

**NAMIBIA/ANGOLA      Manuel Sahanda Neto, doctor of geology and Executive  
Director of the Angolan Human Rights League in Namibia**

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Manuel Sahanda Neto, an Angolan national with refugee status in Namibia, has not been seen since reportedly being forcibly returned to Angola. Amnesty International fears for his safety as it believes he may be at risk of ill-treatment and torture.

A statement made by the Namibian Minister of Interior on 27 May 1998 indicated that Manuel Sahanda Neto was handed over to the Angolan authorities on 19 May 1998, one day after he was arrested in Namibia.

It was also reported that files belonging to The Angolan Human Rights League (LADH), of which Manuel Neto was Director, were handed over to the Angolan authorities at the same time. The LADH is a recently established non-governmental organization in Namibia.

The Namibian authorities have claimed that the reason for Manuel Sahanda Neto's arrest and deportation was linked to his human rights activities which they claimed was a threat to their national security -- despite the peaceful and non-violent nature of his work. The Namibian Home Office had reportedly informed him, just prior to his arrest, that his directorship of the LADH was incompatible with his refugee status and that they feared he may use his position to criticize the Angolan Government.

The reported forcible return apparently took place despite a High Court injunction, taken out on 19 May in the capital Windhoek, blocking such a move.

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/faxes/express/airmail letters TO THE ANGOLAN AUTHORITIES, in Portuguese or in your own language:**

- expressing concern that Manuel Sahanda Neto has not been seen since his deportation to Angola at Namibia's Oshikango Border Post on 19 May 1998;
- requesting information as to his current whereabouts and seeking urgent assurances that he will be safeguarded against any form of ill-treatment or torture;
- asking that the reason for his arrest and place of detention be made immediately known;
- calling for his immediate and unconditional release, unless he is promptly charged with a recognizably criminal offence.

**APPEALS TO: (Please note that fax tones to Angola are obtainable on an erratic basis. The following message may be heard "the number you have dialled has not been recognized, please check and try again" at odd times but may work some moments later).**

President

José Eduardo dos Santos

Presidente da República  
Futungo de Belas  
Luanda, República de Angola  
**Telegrams: President dos Santos, Luanda, Angola**  
**Faxes: + 242 2 33 18 85**  
**Salutation: Sua Excelência / Your Excellency**

Minister of Interior

Sua Excelência André Santana Pitra "Petroff"  
Ministro do Interior  
Ministério do Interior  
Avenida 4 de Fevereiro  
Luanda, República de Angola  
**Telegrams: Ministro do Interior, Luanda, Angola**  
**Faxes: + 242 2 39 25 32**  
**Salutation: Sua Excelência / Your Excellency**

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Sua Excelência Venâncio da Silva Moura  
Ministro das Relações Exteriores  
Ministério das Relações Exteriores  
Palácio do Comércio  
Avenida Comandante Gika  
Luanda, República de Angola  
**Telegrams: Ministro das Relações Exteriores**  
**Faxes: + 244 2 39 32 46**  
**Salutation: Sua Excelência / Your Excellency**

**TO THE NAMIBIAN AUTHORITIES, in English or in your own language:**

- expressing concern at the arrest and subsequent deportation to Angola of Manuel Sahanda Neto on 19 may 1998, where he is at risk of torture and ill-treatment;
- reminding the Namibian authorities to respect their international commitment not to forcibly return refugees to a country where they could face human rights violations;
- calling for an independent inquiry into his arrest and deportation.

President of Namibia

His Excellency Dr Sam Nujoma  
Office of the President  
State House  
Windhoek, Republic of Namibia  
**Faxes: + 264 61 22 1780 / 61 22 1770**  
**Salutation: Dear President Nujoma**

Minister of Home Affairs

Hon. Jerry Ekandjo  
Minister of Home Affairs  
Ministry of Home Affairs  
Windhoek, Republic of Namibia  
**Faxes: + 264 61 22 3817**  
**Salutation: Dear Minister**

**COPIES TO:**

Jornal de Angola, CP 1313, Luanda, Angola  
**Faxes: + 244 2 333342**

Agora: Rua Francisco A. Pinto nº6, 2ºandar, nº21, Luanda, Angola

**Faxes:** + 244 2 323477

Folha 8: Rua Conselheiro Júlio Vilhena nº24,5ºandar, Apt.19, Luanda, Angola

**Faxes:** + 244 2 392289

and to diplomatic representatives of Namibia and Angola accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 22 July 1998.