



Mission Permanente
République de l'Angola
Genève

OHCHR REGISTRY

27 SEP. 2010

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N.V.N° 251 /MP-GE/2010

Genève, le 24 septembre 2010

La Mission Permanente de la République d'Angola auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies à Genève présente ses compliments au Bureau de la Haute Commissaire des Nations Unies pour les Droits de l'Homme à Genève et en référence à sa lettre n° AB/10.08.15, du 1er septembre 2010, a l'honneur de solliciter selon les instructions du gouvernement angolais, que le contenu de la lettre datée du 30 juillet 2010 du Ministre des Relations Extérieures de la République d'Angola, monsieur *Assunção A. de Sousa Anjos*, soit considéré comme des observations du gouvernement angolais, relativement au rapport sur les plus sérieuses violations au droit de l'homme et au droit humanitaire internationale, qu'ont été commises en République Démocratique du Congo, pendant la période de mars 1993 à juin 2003.

Le gouvernement de la République d'Angola sollicite également que le contenu de la lettre du 30 juillet 2010 du Ministre des Relations Extérieures de l'Angola soit publiée et circule en parallèle avec le rapport de la RDC, lors de sa publication prévue pour le 1er octobre 2010, avec la même relevance et considération qui mérite la position du gouvernement angolais.

La Mission Permanente d'Angola remet une fois de plus la copie de la lettre du Ministre des Relations Extérieures

La Mission Permanente de l'Angola saisit cette occasion pour réitérer au Bureau de la Haute Commissaire des Nations Unies pour les Droits de l'homme, l'assurance de sa haute considération



Mission Permanente
République d'Angola
Genève - Suisse

AU
**BUREAU DE LA HAUTE COMMISSAIRE DES NATIONS UNIES
POUR LES DROITS DE L'HOMME
GENEVE**

FAX: 022/917.90.08

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**Republic of Angola
Office of the Minister of External Relations**

Luanda, July 30th, 2010

**To
His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-Moon
Secretary General of the United Nations**

New York

Excellency,

It was with indignation and surprise that the Government of Angola became aware of the serious allegations against the Angolan Armed Forces (FAA) contained in the United Nations report on the most serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law committed in the Democratic Republic of Congo between March 1993 and June 2003.

We are particularly outraged by the fact of these allegations—which are devoid of any foundation, and which offend the good image of a full fledged UN Member State that is respected by the international community, are aimed precisely at the one country that has made the most efforts to stop the wave of gun violence whose main target was the Congolese civilian population, a feat that allowed for the stabilization of the DRC and the Great Lakes region in general.

The contribution of Angola in achieving this objective is palpable and unquestionable, as it counted with the unanimous approval of the international community, which saw it as a crucial part of the efforts to resolve conflicts in Africa. Angola and its armed forces were a decisive element in saving the lives of millions of Congolese citizens and foreigners in the DRC, and perhaps in the Great Lakes region.

It is worthwhile to refer to the request made then by several Western countries and the expressions of gratitude made to Angola after its performance in matters of protection of the civilian population.

In parallel, Angola has provided the political and diplomatic support that made possible a negotiated settlement of the internal conflict and a comprehensive understanding between the DRC and neighboring countries to ensure border security and respect for territorial integrity. Angola continues to provide assistance and multi-

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faceted support to the DRC for the creation of a stable society and a democratic State where the Rule of Law prevails, with institutions that are capable to meet and fulfill the basic needs of its population, instead of sliding into a failed and unstable state, a trend that could until recently jeopardize the stability, peace and security of the entire sub-region.

The success of the recent electoral process, and especially the peaceful manner in which it was carried out, coupled with the massive turnout at the voting booths, is the most obvious sign of entry of the DRC onto the road to peace, national reconciliation and institutional normalization, a development of which Angola is very proud because of its contribution.

I would like to stress, Excellency, that our contribution would not have been as successful had Angola, its Government, and its armed forces not harbored a strong sense of trust among the Congolese authorities and population. This confidence stems from Angola's respect for the DRC's territorial integrity, independence, sovereignty and non interference in its internal affairs.

The presence of Angola in the DRC and the missions carried out by the Angolan Armed Forces have always obeyed the scrupulous observance of the norms of international law, including the Geneva Conventions. In the framework of our democratic State, military hierarchies are subject to the civil power, are educated to respect the population and civilian property and to be magnanimous and tolerant with the wounded or surrendered enemy. Therefore, my Government categorically rejects the suggestions in the report of the involvement of FAA units in acts contrary to their mission.

Angola boasts an enviable record in matters of compliance with its international obligations as a member of the United Nations.

These qualities are rooted in the very gene of the doctrine of our Armed Forces, who have defeated colonialism, resisted and defeated the aggression of the apartheid regime and were able to consolidate national reconciliation without external assistance, including within the armed forces themselves.

Similarly, we reject as slanderous, insulting and provocative the allegations linking the deployment of FAA units to the DRC in exchange for supposed economic incentives to Angola. In this regard, I would like to inform you that neither Angola as a country nor Angolan citizens were, or are involved in the operation or the plundering of the DRC's natural resources. Also, such resources have never passed by the Republic of Angola, and were never used in our food industry or economy. Angola sent forces to the DRC legally, under a mandate issued by SADC at the request of the legitimate government of one of its members.

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In addition to its international responsibilities, the only motivation for Angola's participation in this effort, at its own expense, was peace and stability in the DRC, with which it maintains a common border that is over two thousand kilometers long.

Therefore, we do not accept that such claims be made, nor foolish and slanderous insinuations be alluded to on the basis of unproven assertions, in particular by organizations or sources with a proven track record of anti-Angola attitudes.

The Angolan military remaining in the DRC, are there uniquely and exclusively at the request of the Congolese government to engage in the training of Congolese troops.

The Angolan government is willing to recall them immediately, if convenient.

In light of the above, and on behalf of my Government, I hereby request, Mr. Secretary General, that the allegations concerning Angola be withdrawn from the report in order to meet our concerns and also to take into account our version of the facts.

My Government expresses its readiness to conduct consultations with the High Commissioner for Human Rights, which should cover all aspects of the report, including the clarification and justification of the claims, the issue of its publication and the implementation of its recommendations.

I am certain that you will give due consideration to the concerns of my Government and I ask you to please accepted, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

ASSUNÇÃOE SOUSA ANJOS
[Signature]
MINISTER OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS