

**Maria Elizabeth Augusto Simbrao De Carvalho**  
**Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary**  
**Head of the Mission of the Republic of Angola to the European Union**  
**Rue Franz Merjay 182**  
**1050 Brussels**  
**Belgium**

**Brussels, 8 May 2015**

**Re: Concerns regarding the case of Mr Arão Bula Tempo, a human rights lawyer**

Your Excellency,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE), which, through the national Bars and Law Societies of the Member States of the European Union and the European Economic Area, represents more than 1 million European lawyers. In addition to membership from EU bars, it also has observer and associate representatives from a further thirteen European countries' bars.

The CCBE places great emphasis on respect for human rights and the rule of law. We are particularly concerned by the situation of human rights defenders in the world.

The CCBE writes to express its serious concerns over the situation of Mr Arão Bula Tempo, a human rights lawyer and President of the Provincial Council of the Angolan Bar Association in Cabinda.

The CCBE has been informed that Mr Bula Tempo has been detained since 14 March 2015 on account of his human rights work, together with human rights defender José Marcos Mavungo. The two were reportedly charged with sedition in relation to organising a peaceful demonstration to denounce corruption and bad governance. The human rights defenders have not yet been informed of the date of their hearing.

According to the information we received, Mr Bula Tempo's health conditions are fragile and deteriorating. On 1 April 2015, he reportedly suffered from a hypertensive crisis and had to be urgently attended to by a doctor. Furthermore, Mr Bula Tempo suffers from chronic arterial hypertension and needs constant treatment. The CCBE has been informed that on the morning of 9 April 2015, he had to receive treatment at the Central Hospital in Cabinda due to arterial hypertension after which he was returned to prison.

In this context, the CCBE wishes to draw to your attention the following Articles of the United Nations Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers (1990):

Article 16 states that:

*Governments shall ensure that lawyers (a) are able to perform all of their professional functions without intimidation, hindrance, harassment or improper interference; (b) are able to travel and to consult with their clients freely both within their own country and abroad; and (c) shall not suffer, or be threatened with, prosecution or administrative, economics or other sanctions for any action taken in accordance with recognized professional duties, standards and ethics.*

Furthermore, Article 23 states that:

*Lawyers like other citizens are entitled to freedom of expression, belief, association and assembly. In particular, they shall have the rights to take part in public discussion of matters concerning the law, the administration of justice and the promotion and protection of human rights and to join or form local, national or international organisations and attend their meetings, without suffering professional restrictions by reason of their lawful action or their membership in a lawful organisation. In exercising these rights, lawyers shall always conduct themselves in accordance with the law and the recognised standards and ethics of the legal profession.*

In view of the above, the CCBE respectfully urges you to take immediate and effective steps to guarantee the safety of Mr Arão Bula Tempo by granting him immediate specialist medical treatment of his choice and access to appropriate medication. Furthermore, the CCBE calls for the immediate and unconditional release of Mr Bula Tempo, unless he is to be charged with a recognisably criminal offence. The CCBE also asks you to take all necessary measures to guarantee that lawyers in Angola are able to carry out their professional activities in all circumstances, without fear of reprisal, intimidation or judicial harassment.

I look forward to hearing from you urgently.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maria ŚLAZAK', written in a cursive style.

Maria ŚLAZAK  
President