

# ANGOLA'S KILLING FIELDS

A REPORT ON EXTRAJUDICIAL  
EXECUTIONS IN LUANDA

2016-2017



RAFAEL MARQUES DE MORAIS

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# INTRODUCTION



THE "KILLING FIELDS"

This report details 50 cases of the summary executions of 92 people carried out between April 2016 and November 2017 in the suburbs of the Angolan capital, Luanda, by individuals identified as agents of the Criminal Investigation Service (known by the Portuguese acronym as SIC) serving under the command of Commissioner Eugénio Pedro Alexandre.

The 92 extrajudicial killings described in this report are only a small sample of what are alleged to have been hundreds of deaths at the hands of the SIC. The majority occurred in the municipalities of Cacuaco and Viana, the most densely-populated suburbs of the Angolan capital, Luanda and, home to approximately half of the capital's estimated seven million inhabitants.

Compelling testimony points to a systematic SIC death squad operation targeting young men merely suspected of undesirable or criminal behaviour. The SIC, its commander and agents, stand accused of having organized the methodical extermination of hundreds of innocent Angolan citizens. Evidence gathered over the period covered by this report demonstrates that these were not sporadic or spontaneous killings, but a methodical campaign conducted by identifiable SIC agents, who, on the basis of oral and written reports by civilian collaborators, set out to eliminate those fingered as potential criminals.

The SIC death squads are blamed for the summary executions of hundreds of young Angolans, without even a cursory investigation of the suspects, let alone due process. There are also instances of mistaken identity in which a wholly innocent person is shot, as in Case N<sup>o</sup>. 17. A: a young man named Abega is mistaken for a targeted individual named Drogba, and taken by SIC agents behind a bus where he is shot in the left eye and then in the back and left for dead. But Abega survived to tell the tale.

We should also note here that some extrajudicial killings have included a few cases that occurred in other areas of the Angolan capital, e.g. such as in the Municipality of Cazenga. Many of these killings took place in the Kikolo neighborhood, which, until recently, was administratively included in Cacuaco until b. Boundary changes ahead of the 2017 election reassigned the neighborhood Kikolo into the jurisdiction of Cazenga.

This is significant because Cacuaco was a major opposition stronghold for the UNITA party. Political analysts noted that by annexing a large part of

Kikolo to Cazenga, where the governing MPLA party is dominant, the MPLA was able to “correct an electoral asymmetry”. In other words, the boundary change was seen as nothing more than electoral gerrymandering. Most of the area residents remained unaware of the administrative change. Hence in this report, some of the Kikolo murders are included in the Cacucaco death squad cases. However, we have taken pains to identify the specific cases that have since passed to the jurisdiction of the National Police in Cazenga.

In April 2017, the author reported wrote a report on all the case histories collected over the previous twelve months and shared the information with Interior Minister Ângelo de Barros da Veiga Tavares and other senior figures. There followed a period of calm that coincided with the campaign leading up to Angola’s General Election on August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017. It lasted right up until the newly-elected President João Lourenço took office on September 26<sup>th</sup>. Then, on September 30<sup>th</sup>, SIC agents resumed their murderous campaign.

The first reported post-election case of summary execution took place in Cazenga. On September 30<sup>th</sup> at around 3am two young men named Milton and Lameth were making their way home from a party at Casa Dubai in the Hoji-ya-Henda neighborhood to the Mabor neighborhood in Cazenga. SIC agents in pursuit of two alleged offenders, one of them known as Jó do Boy, confronted Milton and Lameth, who were passing by as the chase caught up with them.

Milton had only recently arrived back in Luanda from Malanje, where he was living with his father, having let his father know on September 28<sup>th</sup> that he was planning to spend the weekend with his mother in Luanda. Milton’s father, António Domingos Miguel, gave the initial account has reported of the circumstances of his death, based on what he was able to find out from people in the Mabor neighborhood who had witnessed what happened. Some The author eyewitnesses and people familiar with the case have corroborated these details of the incidensame tstory with some of the witnesses and with other sources familiar with the casethe author.

Eyewitnesses told him said that four agents wearing SIC vests were on foot chasing two young suspects on foot, backed up by another two SIC agents riding inside a white Toyota Land-Cruiser with tinted windows.

They said Milton and his companion were nearly home when they encountered the agents.

António Domingos Miguel: “Some Up to 50 meters from the house, the young men were approached by SIC. The neighbors who were listening at the



window said that my son actually talked to the SIC men. He explained to them that he lived in Malanje, that he had just finished an electronics course.”

During this conversation, one of the agents fired his gun at the ground and, according to two young men who were watching, the bullet hit Milton’s left leg and he screamed for help. A neighbor opened the door and spoke up to attest to the two young men’s character.

“The boys begged [for their lives], they said they’d never been criminals”, António Domingos Miguel was told. Witnesses described to him how the SIC men even checked their target list. “But one of them opened fire and hit Milton in the chest. My son died on the road”.

When his friend Lameth saw Milton hit the ground, he took off screaming for help. He first tried to go inside his neighbor’s house. The neighbor told the agents that these two boys were “good kids” but it was to no avail. According to locals at who witnessed the scene, one of the agents threatened that resident, saying “Shut your mouth and shut the door, unless you want to die”.

Lameth then ran into a cul-de-sac and hid inside an outhouse. Neighbors had seen the target suspect, Jó do Boy, run in that direction too. “They shot him point blank, once on the right side of his head and once in the forehead, as he crouched down in the corner of the outhouse. Then they just left him there”.

“Another resident, Bebucho, who saw everything, had caught Jó do Boy while he was running. The agents handcuffed them both, asking Bebucho right there and then if he had seen them [SIC executioners] shooting his friends.”

Bebucho told them he was the one who had apprehended the suspect and he was freed.

The agents then took Jó do Boy to the Hoji-ya-Henda police station. “Jó do Boy’s family went to see (Bebucho) who told them he had merely grabbed him”. On October 2<sup>nd</sup> a SIC agent who said he felt sorry for the family told them where to find their son. Jó had been killed the same night and his body taken to the morgue and stored with other unidentified bodies.

Two hours after the street shooting, around 5am, SIC agents arrived to collect the bodies. There was no forensic investigation. Residents identified a Commander Quintas who arrived at the crime scene to see what had happened and who was heard by all to say: “Another bad job.”

# THE EVOLUTION OF DEATH SQUADS

This is how these death squads typically operate. They are organized into paramilitary forces with official approval, and they carry out selective extrajudicial murders for specific purposes<sup>1</sup>.

In modern history, death squads began with the Bolshevik Communist Party after their victory in the 1917 Russian Revolution. The Bolsheviks used their political police force, the Cheka, to eliminate what they called ‘enemies of the people’. This practice became even more widespread under Stalin’s NKVD (the People’s Commissariat of Internal Affairs), which was notorious for its target lists and for setting quotas for the number of killings<sup>2</sup>. Stalin’s erstwhile ally in Nazi Germany, Adolf Hitler, similarly instituted SS Mobile Killing Units which specialized in the extrajudicial killings of the enemies of the Reich such as Jews and other minorities<sup>3</sup>.

The use of death squads is typical of authoritarian dictatorships and has been recorded in numerous countries in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. The methods are often remarkably similar: extrajudicial killings by state-sanctioned units based on lists drawn up by collaborators who support the powers-that-be.

The process is familiar to current residents of the Luanda suburb of Viana. They denounced a SIM card seller named Simão Catequele as responsible for drawing up the kill list for his neighborhood, Mulenvos de Cima. They alleged that he included two young neighbors on that list just to settle a score between his son and them and have the State eliminate the competition. The two men were taken to the local police station where officers used machetes to flay the skin from their backs. (see Cases 31 & 36).

One close parallel to what has been happening in present-day Angola was the use of death squads by the military dictatorship that ruled Brazil from 1964 to 1985. The subsequent Brazilian report describes the events

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<sup>1</sup> Jeffrey A. Sluka (ed.), *Death Squad: The Anthropology of State Terror (The Ethnography of Political Violence)*, Philadelphia, 2000.

<sup>2</sup> George Leggett, *The Cheka: Lenin’s Political Police*, Oxford, 1987.

<sup>3</sup> Richard Rhodes, *Masters of Death: The SS-Einsatzgruppen and the Invention of the Holocaust*, New York, 2003.

as follows: “These groups [death squads] were created in São Paulo in the late 1960s. The justification for the emergence of the Paulista squad was the need for a ‘war on crime’. The agents involved were said to have tortured and killed civilians and political prisoners.”

The report notes that often these death squads were themselves involved in criminal activity such as torture and murder and that they acted in favor “of various interests with direct connections to economic crimes such as gambling, prostitution and drug dealing.”<sup>4</sup>

One of the first questions to be asked in Angola is whether the death squads operate under orders from their hierarchy, or the political powers-that-be, or whether are they at the service of criminal organizations. There may be overlap between the two.

In Brazil, for example, the then governor of São Paulo, Roberto Abreu Sodré, was one of the main supporters of the death squads, saying that they got rid of criminals. What became clear later was that these squads killed indiscriminately – not just criminals but people who opposed the government, or who simply got in the way of the interests of criminal organizations who had police officers in their pocket.

In further evidence that an extermination strategy does not reduce crime, Human Rights Watch reported in 2015 the murder of some 3345 people by the police in Rio de Janeiro<sup>5</sup>, where criminal statistics increase every day, as does the lack of security<sup>6</sup>.

In the present day, one of the countries most affected by extrajudicial killings is the Philippines. According to published data<sup>7</sup>, over 3600 people have been murdered in the Philippines since July 2016 when Rodrigo Duterte became president and began waging his war on drugs and crime. These mass murders have created an atmosphere of anarchy and terror and have generated international concern.

There are parallels between the methods promoted by the government and authorities in the Philippines and the situation observed in Angola. A senior official in the Philippines has explained how his country’s police and secret services organized special operations teams to “neutralize”

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<sup>4</sup> São Paulo State Truth Commission, available [online] on <http://comissaoaverdade.al.sp.gov.br/relatorio/tomo-i/parte-i-cap2.html> (last Access on 12-10-2017).

<sup>5</sup> HRW, “Brazil police abuses feed cycle violence”. <https://www.hrw.org/news/2017/01/12/brazil-police-abuses-feed-cycle-violence>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.hrw.org/news/2016/07/07/brazil-extrajudicial-executions-undercut-rio-security>

<sup>7</sup> Kate Lamb, *Philippines secret death squads: officer claims police teams behind wave of killings*, available [online] on <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/oct/04/philippines-secret-death-squads-police-officer-teams-behind-killings> (08-03-2017).

(i.e. kill) undesirables. This official was very clear: the Duterte government sanctioned the creation of death squads to eliminate criminals.

In the Philippines, the killings happen mostly at night, carried out by hooded agents dressed in black. There are ten ‘special ops’ teams, each made up of 16 members. They coordinate operations to take out a list of targets: suspected drug users, dealers and criminals in general. The operations follow the same pattern: the police officers synchronize their watches to act simultaneously to extract the targeted individuals from their homes within minutes, before dispatching them immediately “quickly and with precision, no witnesses”. Then they dump the bodies at the next town or under a bridge. As we will see, Angola has adopted a similar *modus operandi* with one obvious difference: Angolan police officers operate in broad daylight, even interrupting soccer games to carry out the killings.

One of the apparently contradictory consequences of these policies to “wipe out crime” is that killing the ‘small fry’ does not reduce crime but does benefit the ‘bigger fish’, the people who benefit the most from crime.

As soon as he took office as President of the Philippines, Rodrigo Duterte announced that he would reward citizens who killed drug dealers with medals and money. He said: “Do your duty, and if in the process you kill 1,000 persons because you were doing your duty, I will protect you.”<sup>8</sup> In another statement, issued the same day, Duterte declared: “If you know of any addicts, go ahead and kill them yourself as getting their parents to do it would be too painful.”<sup>9</sup>

Remarkably, the President’s own son was accused, in the Senate, of being one of the biggest drug traffickers in the country. If the President’s order were taken to its logical conclusion, surely the police authorities had *carte-blanche* to kill his son with no need for further investigation or trial. However, Duterte’s son responded to the Senate’s accusation by insisting on his right to be presumed innocent and to use every available legal means to defend himself.

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<sup>8</sup> <http://time.com/4495896/philippine-president-rodrigo-duterte/>

<sup>9</sup> *Idem.*

# POPULAR SUPPORT FOR SUMMARY EXECUTIONS

In Angola, the biggest crooks are the political leaders and their associates. But they remain untouchable. The death squads only target the little guys. Chicken poachers, petty thieves and delinquents ‘deserve’ to be shot without investigation or due legal process because the authorities believe that hardline crackdowns on petty crime, including summary executions, ‘prove’ to the long-suffering Angolan people that something is being done to make them safer and improve their lot.

Meanwhile, the cabal of corrupt politicians and Generals who have looted Angola for nearly 40 years go calmly about their business. To this day no Angolan leader has faced legal consequences for criminal actions in spite of plenty of evidence of corrupt and criminal behavior by members of the ruling elite. More than 15 years after the end of a civil war blamed for all of the country’s ills, and in spite of its oil wealth, Angola still has one of the highest infant mortality rates in the world and an estimated 20 out of its 24 million inhabitants still live in poverty or on the brink.

The leaders, who themselves are accused of grand crimes but have yet to face any consequences, are the same men who have either ordered extrajudicial killings of criminals or – at the very least – turned a blind eye to the murderous interpretation of their exhortations to eliminate crime.

What is their definition of criminal, then? Is a criminal someone who every year condemns thousands of children to death by diverting state funds, or only the petty thief who steals a cell phone? Which is worse? Why not put criminals on trial and assign punishment according to the rule of law?

In the course of our investigation, many of the witnesses we contacted held the view that criminals take innocent lives and therefore also deserve to die. In effect, the mantra that “the only good criminal is a dead criminal”, was echoed both by residents of crime-ridden areas and users of social media in spite of the fact that there is no death penalty in Angola, and that our Constitution operates according to the principle of “innocent until presumed guilty”.

The case of 22 year-old Marcolino Hossi, nicknamed 'Litana' (Case 47) sheds some light on the reaction of a large number of citizens to the summary executions. 'Litana' and two friends were shot dead on May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016 in the suburb of Viana. They were executed in full view of schoolchildren by SIC agents in the playing field next to Elementary and Middle School number 5113, in the Mirú neighborhood, ever since known as "the Killing Field".

According to his cousin Pedro Fito: "many [passers-by and local residents] came to applaud SIC's action, saying 'serves them right' because the young men had been tormenting the neighborhood and that the police were doing 'a good job'". "People even trampled on the poor boys' bodies. Others claimed they [the dead] might come back to life and threw sand on them".

In the face of such public support for government action which not only violates the Constitution and Angolan law but does so in an inhumane and cruel manner, what purpose is served by having laws on the statute books? And why does a considerable section of Angolan society seemingly support, without question, the illegal executions of small-time crooks but not demand that criminal bigshots are held accountable under the law?

The Angolan government's policy on crime has benefited from a demagogic quirk: poor neighborhoods suffer disproportionately from petty crimes such as theft and assault. When a supposedly-criminal element from a poor area is eliminated, the general population feels that, however heavy-handed, the State is acting in their benefit. Thus, if it turns out that an innocent person was killed it's only deemed a 'job badly done' – as per Commander Quintas's comment.

As for calling corrupt politicians to account, communities living in poverty find it impossible to imagine the privileged lives of government ministers, army generals or provincial governors who live in rich neighborhoods and have no direct contact with the population at large. The poor are equally removed and excluded from the so-called middle classes – the intellectual and public activist segments of civil society who often mediate between the ruling elite and the majority.

Due to the huge chasm between the people in power, civil society and the rest of the population, what ministers, generals, governors, their families and associates may have done or what consequences they may theoretically face under the law, has no immediate impact on the everyday lives of Angola's urban poor. Removing a local nuisance does.

This is the background supporting this strategy of extrajudicial executions.

# **(DIS)RESPECT FOR LAW AND LIFE**

Angola is a nation state steeped in violence. From colonial war through independence, a 30-year civil war and right up to the present, Angolans have been accustomed to arbitrary violence in which the primary goals did not include respect for individual human lives, and the ends justified the means.

Social media comments supporting summary executions show that many citizens applaud the extinction of alleged criminals with no consideration given to the rule of law and establishment of guilt, far less their right to life. As we have tried to demonstrate, this populist view is encouraged by the authorities who both exploit and feed the visceral fear of crime felt by the general population. We argue that it has been of benefit to the Angolan authorities to distance the average citizen from an informed consciousness of fundamental human rights, given the corollary of discouraging them from demanding rights of their own.

The overwhelming evidence of summary executions in Angola, and the lack of meaningful action to put a stop to the killings and investigate and prosecute those responsible, is another example of the fraudulence of the government's stated adherence to the rule of law.

In Angola the law has been used as a tool to legitimize the actions of the ruling elite and to provide impunity for the most powerful. Take the case of the former Angolan Vice-President, Manuel Vicente, who is wanted in Portugal to stand trial for the crimes of forgery and money laundering. The Angolan government is doing its utmost to prevent Mr. Vicente from facing justice in Portugal, using sovereignty as an excuse and citing international laws and practices, all aimed at giving immunity to sophisticated thieves.

Manuel Vicente is one of the leaders accused of enriching himself from the Angolan state purse, one of those whose greed is alleged to have most contributed to impoverishing the population. Yet he is protected by the government's interpretation of the 'rule of law' in a way that the poorest and weakest Angolans are not.

*Maka Angola* does not defend criminal behavior, just as we do not support the government's arbitrary acts. What we do stand for is justice and the rule of law. Where there are laws, they should be upheld.

## **CONTRADICTIONARY POSITIONS**

On April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017, we wrote to the Minister of the Interior, Chief Commissioner Ângelo de Barros da Veiga Tavares, informing him of the results of our investigation into summary executions in Cacuaco and Viana. The letter was copied to the then General Commander of the National Police, Ambrósio de Lemos; to the Attorney-General, General João Maria de Sousa; to the Chairman of the National Assembly, Fernando da Piedade Dias dos Santos; and to the then Minister of Justice and Human Rights, Rui Mangureira.

On May 29<sup>th</sup>, the Interior Minister arranged a meeting, attended by two of his advisors, at which he said he had forwarded the report to the Attorney General's Office for investigation. This neatly exempted him from any further action.

We assured the Minister that we had no reason to suspect that the orders for summary executions had come from him. However, in our opinion, as the person in charge of supervising SIC it was within his remit to take any necessary action to determine both the perpetrators and their commanders as well as to guarantee due legal process.

Despite all the evidence, including detailed information, given to the minister and the other above-mentioned entities, to date we have not been informed of any investigation, either by the Attorney General's Office, or by the Ministry of the Interior. There has not even been a formal reply to our letter and case report.



## **THAT LETTER IS TRANSCRIBED IN FULL, HERE:**

**Your Excellency, Minister of the Interior,  
Mr. Ângelo de Barros Veiga Tavares  
[CC: Commander-General of the National Police, Commissioner  
General Ambrósio de Lemos; Attorney-General, General João  
Maria de Sousa; Chairman of the National Assembly, Chief-  
Commissioner (Retired.) Fernando da Piedade Dias dos Santos;  
Minister of Justice and Human Rights, Mr. Rui Mangureira]**

Luanda, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**Subject: Extrajudicial Executions in Cacuaco and Viana**

Your Excellency, Minister of the Interior,

As a journalist and human rights defender, I've been investigating for several months a series of summary executions carried out in the municipalities of Cacuaco and Viana. These summary executions have happened on a regular basis and, in most cases, they are perpetrated by collaborators or agents with the Criminal Investigation Service.

To date, I have been able to positively identify nearly one hundred defenseless individuals who have been executed within a one-year period. As well as these positively identified cases, I also gathered information on dozens of other cases of summary executions.

Therefore, my investigation has counted nearly 200 summary executions. This means that in only one year at least 200 individuals have been murdered, with no right to a trial or any kind of defense, very probably by law enforcement authorities.

Most of the people killed – but not all – have prior records of arrest or time served in prison, which implies that these summary executions are a brutal and criminal solution that the authorities have found to 'eliminate' delinquency. Some of the victims, however, were innocent and I've had the chance to interview two survivors: woodworker Emílio Manuel Mbaxi, 22 years old, was shot three times (in his abdomen, and in his upper and lower limbs), on January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017; taxi driver Pedro Avelino Eduardo 'Abega', 25 years old, was shot once in the eye and once in the abdomen on February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Their testimony leaves no doubt about the serial crimes being committed allegedly by SIC agents or collaborators. It's worthwhile, Minister, to listen to their experiences.

According to article 4, number 3 b) of its Statute, SIC is a central executive service of the Ministry of the Interior, as is the National Police, but separate from it.

Therefore, the person immediately responsible for SIC is the Minister of the Interior, who is in charge of directing and overseeing the central executive services (article 7 c) of the aforementioned Statute.

Bearing in mind that these summary executions have been systematically attributed to SIC agents or collaborators, we request that the Honorable Minister – in your role of highest-ranking authority of that police institution – urgently intervenes to stop and prevent future crimes allegedly perpetrated by these agents.

Therefore, with this letter, I kindly request a meeting, so I can present – while guaranteeing the safety of the surviving victims, their families, the witnesses and the whistleblowing friends – the preliminary results of my investigation. Alternatively, I can submit my questions in writing.

At the end of May or beginning of June, I shall publish a full report containing the results of my investigation so that I can make these serious crimes public. In that report I would like to be able to state that the competent authorities have since acted, with all efficiency and through all available means, to put a stop to this killing spree, and have implemented corrective and training measures to ensure such atrocities are not repeated in the future.

In the hope of being deserving of your attention, I sign below with a patriotic salute.

Sincerely,

Rafael Marques de Morais

# UPDATE

On November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017 the Portuguese version of this report was released to the public on the *Maka Angola* website<sup>10</sup>. Two weeks prior, at his request, the author sent the report to the office of President João Lourenço. The head of state ordered the office of the Attorney General to set up a commission of inquiry and open an investigation into the cases reported.<sup>11</sup>

On December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017, the Interior Minister, Ângelo de Barros da Veiga Tavares, issued a rambling statement on the Ministry's Facebook page, attacking the author, in what many interpreted to be a defiant declaration of independence against the President's order.<sup>12</sup>

This is the Interior Minister to whom the author wrote on April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017 with all the details of the cases of extra-judicial killings that would be published seven months later. Such information sharing was intended to allow him to exercise his authority to take action against the perpetrators. Instead, he never gave a formal response to the letter. And the extrajudicial killings continued on his watch.

In his Facebook statement, the Minister accuses Rafael Marques of having a “visceral hatred of the ruling party”, of possessing “hyper-narcissism” and of being engaged in an “unceasing pursuit of positions that could elevate his rank among his bosses [implying foreign sponsors]”.

He makes no attempt to address the facts in the report but resorts to this *ad hominem* attack on the author in spite of insisting on his own right to the “inviolability of moral and intellectual integrity, good name, honor and reputation, image and preserve of privacy”. Not once does he address the right to life enshrined in the constitution for every Angolan.

He goes on to accuse the author of being “frivolous and irresponsible”, and claims that he is not a true journalist, but a stooge of foreign interests, before diving into a confused description of his own biography and police service that have no relation to the cases under scrutiny. The Interior Minister ends his garrulous and confused statement by offering “advice” to the author of the report, telling him to reflect on the negative image he conveys of his own country and ending with the pious hope that “even though he knows what he does, may God forgive him”.

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<sup>10</sup> <https://www.makaangola.org/files/OCampodaMorte.pdf>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.makaangola.org/2017/12/joao-lourenco-ordena-investigacao-sobre-fuzilamentos/><sup>12</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/minint.horahora/posts/1568460679869406>

Although it took eight months (and the election of a new President), the Office of the Attorney General issued an official statement on the matter on December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017.<sup>13</sup> In it, the Attorney General acknowledged that he had been informed of the report on extrajudicial killings in May (referring to the aforementioned letter dated April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017) and that he had ordered a “preliminary inquiry to assess the veracity of the exposé”. The Attorney General vowed to “keep the public and society informed about the conclusions of the inquiry”.

To date, neither the author nor any of the witnesses nor any of the bereaved families has been contacted by the purported commission of inquiry. There has been no public information regarding the members of such a commission, or from where or how it operates.

Finally, on January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018 during a session of Angola’s National Assembly, Members of Parliament voiced concerns about the report. The Secretary of State of the Interior (i.e. the Deputy Minister), Hermenegildo Félix, responded thus: “Neither the National Police nor any other body of the Ministry of Interior will allow that, under the guise of human rights or the subjective will of certain people, they cease to comply with their duties”(…) “with due deliberation”.<sup>14</sup>

He told Members of Parliament that there are some police officers “who give a bad name to institutions which should transmit an image of security to the people”.<sup>15</sup>

He added: “I must say that agents who have been caught have been severely punished, and there are no orders for extrajudicial killings to be carried out. Our legal framework does not contemplate the death penalty”.<sup>16</sup>

The Secretary of State then went on to complain that society does not express solidarity towards the police when officers are killed in the line of duty, referring to two officers who died in December.

It should be stressed how much popular support was expressed towards SIC and the police in social media and against the author regarding extrajudicial killings. For many, if agents have a murdering streak then it’s a question of “good riddance to criminals”, whether or not such acts are legal or constitutional, and regardless of whether the victims were investigated or may have been innocent.

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<sup>13</sup> [http://jornaldeangola.sapo.ao/politica/pgr\\_investiga\\_denuncias](http://jornaldeangola.sapo.ao/politica/pgr_investiga_denuncias)

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.dn.pt/lusa/interior/governante-rejeita-denuncias-de-execucoes-sumarias-pela-policia-em-angola-9077635.html>

<sup>15</sup> Idem

<sup>16</sup> Idem

# METHODOLOGY

There were two fundamental aspects that determined the choice of the municipalities of Viana and Cacuaco as the main focus for the investigation.

Firstly, the number of summary executions being registered systematically in these two municipalities. For example, over the course of several months SIC agents shot many young men from the Mirú neighborhood in Viana in the field adjacent to Elementary and Middle School No. 5113, in broad daylight. It became a common occurrence for students to watch the shootings during break times and the killers would even interrupt soccer games to finish them off. And even though we were unable to identify all the victims from the “Killing Field” (some were not locals but had been taken there for execution), we were able to contact dozens of witnesses, whose testimony gave us valuable information about the *modus operandi* of these killers in government service.

In Cacuaco, SIC agents were systematically clearing out entire neighborhoods. António Bernardo, whose son was shot dead outside his house on January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017, described the way in which the executions were conducted in his neighborhood, Caelele: “They are SIC men. They do the killing. And then officers from the police station come to collect the bodies. They are killing neighborhood by neighborhood. They started in Compão and now they’ve moved to our neighborhood.”

Secondly, we had the help of 15 assistants in the field who themselves lived in the areas where most of these murders had occurred. Their contribution was essential both to identify the cases and to establish first contact with the victims’ families, who we then interviewed.

In some cases, we were unable to conduct face-to-face interviews. Due to the presence of SIC informers and to the constant patrols by both the SIC killers and other police officers, there was too much tension in the affected neighborhoods. In those instances, we chose to conduct interviews with family members by phone, facilitated by one of our assistants. The assistant’s presence went unnoticed by the SIC and their informers and served to reassure interviewees of our commitment to human rights, helping to assuage people’s fears in this atmosphere of terror.

We collected oral testimony directly from witnesses, family members, neighbors and survivors. Many only spoke on condition of anonymity. There were also instances when agents involved in the killings, or police who had been called to ‘clean up’ the crime scene, anonymously contributed information helping us to reconstruct events. Whenever possible for each case we cross-referenced the testimony from several different sources in order to verify and corroborate the information.

In some cases, family members, witnesses and neighbors who were initially interviewed over the phone then went on to initiate personal contact with the main investigator in neutral locations where they could speak freely.

The testimony of family members and friends was not used, at any point, to attempt to exonerate the victims of any criminal offence they might have committed in life. Each person has the right to bear witness – our role was to note their testimony and provide context. Some families openly admitted that their murdered family members had been delinquents and some even expressed relief at their deaths.

In addition to the oral testimony we also collected documentary evidence: autopsy reports, release forms, photographs and other elements, which permitted a clearer picture of the facts.

More than a hundred victims were not included in this report. Even when we were able to confirm the fact of their deaths, there was insufficient information to permit their inclusion. For example, we investigated reports of regular shootings of groups of five to eight victims in Viana’s Mulenvos de Baixo neighborhood. After the executions, the bodies were thrown into ditches or left in dumpsters. However, the victims’ identities could not be established as they weren’t known to locals and had possibly been transported from another area to be finished off in Viana.

# CASES

The 50 cases of extrajudicial shootings that follow have been organized chronologically in reverse order, starting with the most recent.



THE "KILLING FIELDS"

## **CASE No. 1: “FINISHED OFF AT THE POLICE STATION”**

**VICTIMS:** Zito João Gonçalves ‘Zé Pik’, 21, from Luanda; Juliano Chitumba ‘Leão’, 22, from Huambo; Basílio Afonso Ngueve ‘Obama’, 18, from Luanda

**DATE:** November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**LOCATION:** Compão, Kikolo

### **INCIDENT:**

Zé Pik, a dancer in the band ‘Bate à Toa’, performed at a music concert near the Kikolo administration offices until 11pm. Afterwards, Zé Pik and two friends – Leão and Obama – decided to carry on having fun and joined a party in Bandeira. Around midnight, that party broke up and the three young men went on to a third gathering at the Electro Jennifer party hall. When they left the party at dawn, while jogging down the street, three men ordered the boys to stop.

“The street was well-lit, and I was standing only a few meters away. The three young men came out running. Three individuals told them to put their hands up”, one of the witnesses states on condition their name be withheld. They were standing in front of the local Catholic church.

“Zezito [Zé Pik] stopped and they shot him in the chest. Basílio got shot in the hand and screamed ‘don’t let me die alone’. Leão got shot in the foot and in the stomach. He looked dead, but it turns out he was pretending, there was still a lot of life left in him.” According to the same witness: “Basílio jumped to the other side of the road and was killed with four shots to the head and another one in the hand”. A cousin of Basílio’s confirmed this report. Another witness, who would also rather remain anonymous, says that the killers left immediately and that Leão screamed for help. “He was still very much alive, he played dead while it was happening.”

One of the witnesses recalls that a man nicknamed ‘Big’ was there while the crime was being committed. He is a suspected SIC collaborator, and is believed by many locals to be the person responsible for pointing out the



targets to be shot down in that area. “When young men are killed in that area, ‘Big’ is always there. He’s the one who shows them. His brother is a great big thief, but he protects him and has many innocent people killed”, according to one of the witnesses.

Testimony from family members and friends reveal that Leão was taken away by a National Police patrol car. Leão’s uncle, who refuses to speak publicly about the case, went with his nephew in the police car.

According to several accounts, the police informed the uncle that the wounded man had to be taken to IFA Police Station [3<sup>rd</sup> Division Command, Cazenga Municipality] and that he could only be taken to hospital after signing a consent form there. Informants say IFA Police Station is where the famous executioner Pula-Pula, mentioned in several cases here, operates.

The wounded young man spoke to his uncle on the way to the police station. Then, while the uncle was registering the incident inside the station, he heard gunshots and emerged to find his nephew’s lifeless body on the floor, already covered up. The young man had been killed inside the police station with two shots to the head. Statements from family members and friends confirm this account.

“The same men who murdered Zé Pik and Obama and who left Juliano alive went to finish the job at the police station”, explains one of the victims’ family members. “The men who are doing these killing jobs are controlled by the IFA police station”, accuses another family member. Yet another relative says that one of the SIC agents told the uncle that they were looking for his nephew, that he was on the list “and that they had to cap him off right there”.

Family members report that what possibly led to these murders was the fact that, on the afternoon of November 3<sup>rd</sup>, Leão and Obama had stolen the handbag of a lady riding by on a motorcycle. Apparently, the lady returned to the scene of the mugging with ‘Big’ and was able to identify the muggers and their families’ homes. “Big said: ‘these kids are gonna get it’”, the cousin of one of the unfortunate boys recalls. The families confirmed that Zé Pik did not take part in the mugging. Apparently the thieves got 12,000 kwanzas out of it.

The previous January when the murder rates were at their highest, Obama’s family moved to try to keep him safe. Three months later, against the family’s will, Obama returned to the area believing he had done nothing that would justify his execution.

“Basílio drank a lot. He stole only to pay for the drink. They were already looking for him one week before he was shot. One cousin says that on the day he died, “two DNIC [SIC] agents sat with him on the square, bought him some beers and made plans to meet him at the party”. “Turns out they were planning his death instead”, she says.

## **CASE No. 2: “ANOTHER BAD JOB”**

**VICTIMS:** Domingos António Gaspar ‘Milton’, 25; Lameth Pepito Laurindo ‘Lami-Py’, 20, both from Luanda

**DATE:** September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**LOCATION:** Mabor, Cazenga Municipality

### **INCIDENT:**

Around 3am, Milton and Lami-Py were returning home to Mabor, after a party at Casa Dubai, in the Hoji-ya-Henda neighborhood , when they were caught up in the pursuit of two alleged offenders, one of them known as Jó do Boy, by SIC agents. According to eyewitnesses, the four agents were clearly identifiable wearing SIC vests. They were chasing the young men on foot, while another two rode a white Toyota Land-Cruiser with tinted windows.

António Domingos Miguel, Milton’s father, says Milton was living with him in the city of Malanje, and on September 28<sup>th</sup> told him that he was going to visit his mother in Luanda that coming weekend. He recounts what happened based on testimony from neighbors and other eye-witnesses.

“50 meters away from the house, the young men were approached by CIS. The neighbors who were listening at the window said that my son actually talked to the SIC men. He explained to them that he lived in Malanje, that he had just finished an Electronics course.” During this conversation, one of the agents fired his gun at the ground and, according to two young men who were watching, the bullet hit Milton’s left leg and he screamed for help. A neighbor opened the door to attest to the two young men’s character.

“The boys begged, they said they’d never been criminals. The SIC men checked their target list, but one of them shot straight away and hit Milton on the chest. My son died on the road”, recalls his father.

Lameth, in turn, when he saw his friend on the ground, began running and screaming for help. He tried to go into the house of a neighbor who told the men that the boys were “good” children of the community, but to no avail. According to witnesses one of the agents told him: “Shut your mouth and shut the door, unless you want to die.”

Lameth ran into the same cul-de-sac that Jó do Boy had run towards. He hid in a neighbor’s outhouse. “They shot him at point blank range in the outhouse, in the corner where he was crouching down, once in the right side of his head and once in the forehead,. They just left him there”, recalls one of the neighbors.

“My neighbor Bebucho, who saw everything, was the one who caught Jó do Boy while he was running. The agents handcuffed them both and asked Bebucho right there and then if he had seen him shooting his friends. He said he was the one who’d apprehended the boy and they set him free.”

Immediately after, the agents led Jó do Boy to the 13<sup>th</sup> National Police Station, in Hoji-ya-Henda. The bodies of the collateral victims were collected by SIC around 5am without any forensic investigation. Commander Quintas went to the crime scene to learn what had happened and, in front of several residents, simply said: “Another bad job.” This comment incensed the residents and neighbors of the young men who had been killed but Lameth’s father, an FAA officer named Pepito Laurindo, managed to calm them down.

“Jó do Boy was killed by SIC that same night, and his body was directly taken to the morgue. His family went to see my neighbor [Bebucho] who told them he merely grabbed him. One of the agents felt sorry for the family and on October 2<sup>nd</sup> informed them that Jó do Boy had been killed that same day and that his body was at the morgue, together with the other unidentified bodies”, his father explains.

To António Domingos Miguel, “Cazenga’s National Police command knows who did the job. They’re covering for the murderers”. “Toledo, the head of search and arrest, had the nerve to ask me – to my face – if my son and his friend were in the same gang as Jó do Boy”. “Justice has to be done. This is a pain without end. I was raising this son”, he laments.

## **ABOUT TOLEDO**

Here are some extracts from the article published in Maka Angola on June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014, (“The three young men murdered on June 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Golf II area

by individuals identified as members of the Operation Squad from the 32<sup>nd</sup> National Police Station were buried today in Camama Cemetery in Luanda), indicating that these summary executions follow a pattern and that the authorities, protect and even openly encourage the killers:

Joice Neto witnessed the murder of the three young men, including her older brother, Damião Zua Neto 'Dani', 27, only a few steps away from their home. Maka Angola attended the funerals and visited the scene of the crime where Joice gave an account of the attack.

Shortly after midday, Dani asked his sister to go answer the door, thinking he heard a customer wanting to buy múcua ice-cream, which the family makes and sells from home. Joice Neto came out, and hearing a bang saw a Hyundai Accent with two occupants stopped on the corner while a Toyota HiAce vehicle blocked the road. Some of the HiAce occupants got out, carrying weapons. Her brother recognized one of his friends behind the wheel of the car, so came out and walked over "to find out what was going on". "The agents fired two shots in the air to scare people off and then they shot my brother. Once in the head and once in the groin". Joice says: "I started screaming: 'Oh, my brother! Oh, my brother!' My brother raised his head, looked at me and died."

Then a volley of shots was fired at the car. Dani's friend behind the wheel, Gosmo Pascoal Muhongo Quicassa 'Smith', 25, died of 14 bullet wounds concentrated around the left side of his body, according to the autopsy report disclosed to Maka Angola by his stepfather.

Manuel Contreiras, 26, was shot in the foot. He stepped out of the car and, according to witnesses, begged the executioners to spare his life as he had only asked for a ride to the main road where he was going to get a taxi to Viana and then public transport to his hometown in Malanje province. His brother, Samuel Contreiras says: "The killer merely looked at him. The HiAce driver got out and used his AK-47 to shoot my brother once in the abdomen and once in the head."

Initially, witnesses had told *Maka Angola* that Manuel was in the back seat. This was not the case. The incorrect information was due to the way the bodies were laid out when witnesses were able to approach the crime scene. Dani died by the front wheel on the right-hand side of the vehicle and Manuel, who had got out of the car, was shot near the doors

Manuel had spent the night and had breakfast with an older brother, Tiago Contreiras, who is the Deputy Chief at Fubu Police Station in Belas Municipality. After the murders, Tiago Contreiras was called in by officer

Beto Kinjila, Kilamba Kiaxi's Head of Operations, who has an office at this station.

"Chief Beto informed me that an operation squad, led by Toledo, had shot down three criminals at Golf, and he ordered me to take a patrol team to remove the bodies. I pointed out that the area was under the Kilamba Kiaxi Unit, and I went to take care of another mission", Deputy-Chief Tiago Contreiras told *Maka Angola*. Minutes later, some family members, unable to reach him by phone, went in person to the police station to tell him what had happened.

"It was only then that I realized that my colleagues had killed my brother. I went to ask Mr. Beto Kinjila who had killed those three criminals. At that point, he already knew that his men had killed my brother. So he said I was accusing him and that he would request my dismissal and removal from the police force", Tiago Contreiras recounts. Speaking the day after the killings, clearly grieving, the police Deputy Chief said: "I know Toledo well. I know he was driving that HiAce. And all the others later returned to the station. They're my colleagues. I just didn't know that they'd killed my brother."

## **CASE No. 3: CENOURA**

**VICTIM:** "Cenoura"

**DATE:** September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**LOCATION:** Killing Field, District 6, Viana Municipality

### **INCIDENT:**

"Around six or seven individuals, wearing SIC vests inside out, arrested Cenoura at home between 3 and 4am. I saw them taking him into a Toyota Land Cruiser with tinted windows", reported a neighbor requesting anonymity.

Cenoura lived with his mother a few meters away from the Killing Field. Around 6am the same agents returned with Cenoura and led him to the Killing Field where they shot him once in the head and once in the chest. The same neighbor says that Cenoura was just a student. "He may have hung out with bad company but nothing in his behavior seemed to justify him being killed."

Neighbours report that Cenoura's mother, a widow, abandoned the house out of grief over the death of her only son.

## **CASE No. 4: "THEY ARE THIEVES AND THEY DESERVE TO DIE"**

**VICTIMS:** Mendik Pedro Samuel 'Kabila', 22, from Uíge; Inácio Fernando Romão, 21, from Luanda

**DATE:** April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**LOCATION:** Malueca, Cacuaco Municipality

### **INCIDENT:**

Mendik Pedro Samuel 'Kabila' lived in Caxito, Bengo province, and travelled to Luanda regularly to visit his parents and siblings in Malueca, Cacuaco Municipality as well as his wife and daughter, who lived in Golf. On April 20<sup>th</sup>, he went first to visit his parents, then proceeded with his friend Inácio Fernando Romão, to Golf to meet his wife and daughter with whom he had dinner.

His parents and siblings spoke to Kabila for the last time after dinner, when he called his brother (Guilherme Pedro Samuel, 'Gui') to find out if a message which he had just received from an unspecified source was true. According to the message, his brother Matondo, 18, had been arrested. The family says that, as had been happening with other young men all over the area, the teenager was "being pursued by the DNIC [SIC], to be shot down". In 2014, Matondo had been arrested twice in six days, on suspicion of theft.

Around 4am, a bread seller saw two bodies being dumped from a blue and white JinBei mini-van by two individuals. The bodies were thrown in the mud, in an alleyway next to the bakery, near Malueca junction. The seller sounded the alarm.

Kabila's family rushed to the location and found the bodies of both Kabila and Inácio, showing signs of having been tied up and tortured. Gui noticed that his brother Kabila had been injected with some fluid in his left arm, which had caused blisters on his skin. According to Eva Paulina, Kabila's mother, one of SIC's three investigators at the scene merely informed them that the dead men "are thieves and they deserved to die".

In turn, Inácio's father, Fernando Romão, says that the three investigators asked him to come with them to the bakery's backyard so they could write down his son's and his family's details. "One of them took off his backpack and took out a notebook and some photos. He showed them to me and said: "These [young men] are dangerous, one ran away but he's being searched for, and then there are these left."

"I also saw photos of Inácio and Kabila [while they were still alive] and I asked why", Fernando Romão continues. "They answered that they were the criminal investigators and asked me whether I wanted to judge them or whether they were the ones with the right and power to judge. I asked them if they had killed my son and his friend Kabila. They answered that I was accusing the authorities and that I was stressed out. They told me that the police don't kill. They arrest and hand over to the Public Prosecution".

Fernando Romão saw ten photos and says that "there were eight left [to be eliminated]". "Then I found out that it was them [the CIS] who killed my son and his friend. I gave them the information they asked for, they put their notebook and photos away in the backpack and we left the yard".

Conceição Pedro Samuel, Kabila's sister, says that three SIC agents from the Alfa-5 Police Station then went to the house of the girlfriend of Kabila's youngest brother, Luís Pedro Samuel 'Matondo' and told her: "We've killed your brother-in-law, now we just have to kill your boyfriend."

Two days later, when they went to the morgue to collect the bodies for the funeral, they discovered the SIC had misrepresented the cause of death. Eva Paulina recalls the exchange with the coroner: the SIC had registered in the body removal report that the young men had been shot dead. The coroner demanded an explanation. In turn, "the SIC men at the morgue asked what my son had died of. I answered that the only one who knew was already dead [his son] and that I hadn't witnessed the murder. They insisted that, as a father, I had to know why my son had died", Fernando Romão recounts.

The investigators informed Inácio's father about the content of the report they had with them, in which his son and his friend were described as delinquents. For having defended his son as a polite and 'clean' citizen, the agents accused Fernando Romão of being unrealistic. He admits that Inácio was sent to prison for a year for theft and that he was released in June 2016 – but says he was wrongly convicted.

“One day, the police and the DNIC [CIS] showed up here at our house with my son handcuffed and badly tortured, all covered in blood. He couldn’t even open his eyes, they were so swollen. I asked them what crime he had committed and they said he had been caught pulling a robbery but that they couldn’t say anything else because it was under legal secrecy.” His son had been denounced by a stranger who had himself been badly tortured and forced to denounce someone.

Conceição Pedro Samuel, Kabila’s sister, tells she was arrested at 4am by the same SIC agents. She cannot recall the exact date. “I’d been at home for a couple of days after three weeks at the Cajueiro Hospital where my seven-month-old son had been hospitalized. After Inácio was beaten up so badly that they cracked his head open, he mentioned my brother Kabila’s name. Since they couldn’t find him, they slapped me around and took me and my baby.”

“They took me to my sister’s house, where the police officers stole the plasma screen, a gas canister and my brother-in-law’s computer. They made me ride with them all day. We also went by the Rangel Station. Then they dropped me off far from home.”

At the Divisional Command of Rangel urban district, where Inácio was maltreated, the agents told his father to go buy medication to save his son’s life. Inácio was unable to move his hands because of the beatings he’d undergone. “I found a nurse to check him out and, for the next 15 days I went to the police station every day to massage him until he regained movement. Once recovered, he was sent for trial and convicted.”

“I asked the judge why he had sentenced him to one year in prison. There was no evidence or witnesses, not even the police officers who arrested him [turned up to testify].” “There’s no such thing as evidence with MPLA. That was in the colonial days”.

Meanwhile, Kabila had spent over a year in pre-trial detention in Viana district between 2015 and 2016. His family say he was arrested on the word of a SIC collaborator linked to the Bom Pastor, Alfa-5 and Asa Branca police stations.

According to his sister: “That Francisco [the collaborator] wanted my brother’s scooter, which was properly licensed, and he started using it as if it was his own”.

“My brother was convicted by the Cacuaco Municipal Court without a single plaintiff, not even the police to clarify which crime he had committed. They made us pay 150,000 kwanzas for his bail and another 30,000 kwanzas to the man who went to get him from his cell”, she adds.



Four days earlier, a SIC collaborator known only as 'Big' arranged for Gui, Kabila's brother, to call him from an unknown number. "Kabila called from his own phone and four days later he was dead. 'Big' no longer came around after that", says Eva Paulina.

## **CASE No. 5: "SURROUNDED"**

**VICTIMS:** MMoisés Ângelo Fernando 'Picatchu', 22, from Luanda; Eduardo Chilombo 'Edu', 21, from Kwanza Sul; Chilala (no further information available)

**DATE:** April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**LOCATION:** Ngola Kiluange, Cacuaco Municipality

### **INCIDENT:**

On the night of April 14<sup>th</sup> the three friends had been drinking alcohol in the street and had a scuffle. A witness says: "Some SIC individuals were passing by and they asked if the young men were delinquents". Later, around 6am, as they were on their way home, the boys were surrounded near Jeremias School, close to where Moisés lived.

Witnesses near the scene identified Chilala as the first one to be killed, with four shots to the abdominal area. Picatchu ran inside a neighbor's house and was riddled with bullets on her balcony: seven shots to the chest and one to the foot. He died right there.

Picatchu did have a criminal record. In 2013 he had been arrested for stealing 25 pairs of plastic sandals and 50,000 kwanzas in cash and he spent three years in prison for the theft. Shortly after his release, in 2016, the young man was again detained, this time for six months, on suspicion of cell phone theft.

Picatchu's eldest sister, Júlia, says that, when he was arrested for stealing the cell phone, he and his friends were caught with a gun in their rucksack.

"We [the family] paid 100,000 kwanzas to the CIS investigators at Cacuaco Municipal Command to get him out, because my mother insisted she wanted her son released."

When he died, Picatchu had only been out for one month. "What do these guys expect? For the family, it's painful. As his elders, we see right and

wrong. We advised him to follow the good path but he wouldn't listen, he wanted to commit crimes. He was a drug addict and he was disrespectful to his family", says his sister.

"I cannot defend him. There's no way. I felt sadness, but I didn't expect anything else. "

"I found out that while they were fighting that night, there were DNIC [SIC] men passing by who asked what was going on. Neighbors told us that it was the DNIC [SIC] who killed them. I didn't see it because I was asleep", she concludes.

## **CASE No. 6: "SETENTA IS THE REAL THIEF"**

**VICTIM:** Eduardo Mbuta Mbindiangani "Tonton", 36, from Uíge

**DATE:** April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**LOCATION:** Mabor, Cazenga Municipality

### **INCIDENT:**

Tonton's uncle, Lucau is the family spokesman. He says that after watching a Champions League football match between Barcelona and Juventus, Tonton and his friends stayed outside talking about the match and matters of the church they all belonged to.

"My nephew [Tonton] was talking when that infamous thief, known as Setenta, showed up and started eavesdropping. Three policemen in uniform, who had parked their car away from view by the Muslim church, started coming their way".

Next, "the gentleman from the DNIC [SIC] approached the group. Without saying a word he fired a shot at my nephew straight away, hitting him in the leg. My nephew screamed and asked why they were shooting at him when the thief was right next to him", Lucau added. "That's when the policemen realized their mistake. The one who had fired the shot left my nephew and went after the thief, who had begun to run. He shot him once in the back and again in his liver. He fell in the other backyard."

The police officers left Setenta for dead and as they were leaving, they were confronted by Tando, Lucau's brother, who had witnessed the incident:

“My brother told them ‘you shot an innocent man. You’ve left the thief behind and now you’re leaving without helping the innocent one?’”

Meanwhile, Setenta was rescued by his mother and taken to Américo Boavida Hospital. He survived. Tonton died in the same hospital, 24 hours after he was shot. According to family and neighbors, Eduardo Buta Mbindiangani “Tonton” traded on the border between Luvo (Mbanza-Kongo), Kinshasa (DRC) and Congo.

“My nephew was going to travel to London that same week. I’d met him, he had everything organized to go there”, his uncle recalls. The family remarks that Tonton “had never been arrested, had never been in any trouble. He was well-known in Mabor. They killed him by mistake”.

Uncle Lucau says the executioners came from the Dona Amália Police Station, “which is under the jurisdiction of Kimakieto Station.” “We pressed charges against the DNIC [SIC] but it led nowhere. At the Dona Amália Police Station, they simply told us ‘Oh well, it happened. That’s it’. They paid no attention to it”, he says.

The family persisted and approached the Provincial Headquarters for Criminal Investigation (PHCI), where they once again tried to press charges. “They took notes of what we said and that was it. These men don’t value human life at all”.

## **CASE No. 7: “WARNING: THEY’RE KILLING IN DISTRICT 6”**

**VICTIMS:** Bruno Sebastião da Silva Rodrigues, 20, Osvaldo Bumba ‘Juquinha’, 17, both from Luanda

**DATE:** April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**LOCATION:** Rua da Mamá Gorda, District 6, Viana Municipality

### **INCIDENT:**

Juquinha said goodbye to family living in the Rocha Pinto district on Friday April 7<sup>th</sup> to go to a party in District 6, where he used to live and his mother still resides. “I warned him not to go back to 6, because they’re killing people over there”, says José Bumba, the victim’s brother. “But his friend Bruno came to pick him up at home”.

Juquinha and Bruno Sebastião were taken by four agents riding on two motorcycles, each sandwiched between two agents. When they reached the site where they were killed, the friends were made to dismount. “My brother was shot twice in the back and once in the head”.

Juquinha’s uncle, who wanted his name withheld said this: “They [the two friends] were found at a *sentada* [social club]. I believe the authorities who killed them must have received orders from above. The higher instances have their reasons, based on the young men’s behavior.” “My nephew *mexia* [committed petty crimes]. He spent a year and a half, between 2015 and 2016, in rehab at Remar [an NGO] at Porto Amboim, but he came back and carried on with that life.”

Teresa Sebastião Domingos says she was only informed of her son Bruno’s death two hours later and that she reached the scene around 4pm. She says Bruno had been detained at Contentores Police Station [44<sup>th</sup> Police Station, in Viana] and had spent nearly two years on remand at Luanda’s Central County Court. “He was in custody all that time without once having been heard or tried, on suspicion of robbing a canteen.”

## **CASE No. 8: “IT MAKES NO SENSE TO DEFEND HIM”**

**VICTIM:** Bráulio Matias Fogo de Deus’, 24

**DATE:** March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017

**LOCATION:** Cuca, Curtume

### **INCIDENT:**

SIC agents arrested Fogo de Deus at home in front of his family at 7.30pm. About an hour later, some friends found his body by the side of the road, shot twice in the abdomen. Fogo de Deus’s sister, who would rather not give her name, confirmed her brother was a petty criminal. Asked about his killing, she said: “It makes no sense to defend him.”

## **CASE No. 9: “JUMBO WOLVES AND MINI WOLVES”**

**VICTIM:** Catenda João Fernando ‘Scooby-Doo’, 35

**DATE:** February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017

**LOCATION:** Calemba

### **INCIDENT:**

Scooby-Doo was at a party in Campo da Tourada when an acquaintance told him that his girlfriend was outside the venue and wanted to speak to him urgently. Scooby-Doo went outside but didn’t see his girlfriend. While he was talking to a *pincho* [meat kebab] seller, he was shot in the back of the head and neck.

“One of them called his name. Another one shot him. His family know both of [the assailants] because they live in the area”, says António Diogo, the victim’s cousin.

Scooby-Doo had been in custody twice before. The first time was the previous year, when he was held for four months. Days before he was killed he had been detained for one week. The family didn’t disclose the reasons for these arrests.

According to his cousin, Scooby-Doo had been part of the “Lobos do Jumbo” [“Jumbo Wolves”] gang, who organized raves. “There was another group, the Mini Wolves, who were criminals and one of them had adopted my cousin’s nickname”, says António Diogo.

## **CASE No. 10: “RELEASED STRAIGHT AWAY”**

**VICTIMS:** Senas Pedro Kiala ‘Senacristo’, 25; António Matias da Conceição, 31, from Bengo; Osvaldo Miguel Arriaga; one unidentified individual; Hélder Pedro Kiala, 20 years old, brother of Senacristo, killed June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016

**DATE:** January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**LOCATION:** Back of the 11 de Novembro Stadium, Viana Municipality

### **INCIDENT:**

All three had criminal records and were out on parole. “António was released on parole in July last year, after being in jail for nine months for drug trafficking”, says Ramiro ‘Kito’, who used to accompany him to his trial hearings, which were underway when he was killed. Osvaldo and Senacristo were also on parole, after having been in jail for robbing the BIC bank in Viana.

Senacristo was released from prison on December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016. On January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017 he left his house in the morning to attend to personal documents. On January 29<sup>th</sup> he was executed at dawn near the 11 de Novembro Stadium, along with the three other individuals – all with shots to the head – as evidenced by images posted on someone’s Facebook page. The next day, the bodies were removed and dumped elsewhere. On February 1<sup>st</sup>, the families identified the victims in the Central Morgue.

In June 2015, Senacristo and another eight members of his gang had been arrested by SIC over a bank robbery. His father, his two sisters and his wife were also picked up for questioning. António Kiala says: “I was beaten at the Kilamba Central Station. The chief investigator accused me of being my son’s accomplice. My son and I were beaten in the same room. I begged them to torture him away from me or to kill us both. They slapped my face so hard that I fell to the ground”.

The four family members were released. “One of the commanding officers from the Provincial Command [of the National Police] demanded that me, my daughters and my daughter-in-law be released, saying that the crime was not transferable. The same commanding officer asked if they usually arrest everyone along with their families”, he recounts.

Yet two days later all four were arrested again, this time with one of Senacristo's brothers, João Pedro. They were taken to the suspect's home, near 11 de Novembro Stadium in Viana, where police demanded they show them where their brother had stashed some guns. Unbeknown to the rest of the family, João Pedro and his sister-in-law had buried four AK-47s and a handgun belonging to Senacristo. The two of them spent three months in prison as accomplices.

"From then on the SIC came to my house all the time, as if they were regular customers at a restaurant, says António Kiala. "They threatened, as they had done at Kilamba Police Station, to kill Senacristo as soon as he was released." "They said I had too many children".

With Senacristo and João Pedro both in prison, António Kiala took comfort from a visit from his son Eduardo, who was 19 and a university student in Uíge. On the day he arrived in Luanda, he was immediately arrested by CIS agents at his father's home and spent a night in the cells "for no reason". Then on June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016, another of his sons, 20 year-old Hélder Pedro Kiala, who was also studying in Uíge, travelled to Luanda to see his family and buy a motorcycle. "We didn't even see him alive. The next day, we heard he was dead in Hoji-ya-Henda. We went to see and there were no signs of gunshot wounds. They cut the veins on the back of his head, says António Kiala. "Now I understood the SIC men's threats, when they said I had too many children."

António Kiala says one of the agents involved in Senacristo's detention, known as Mapanda, "asked his superior for permission to kill him". "That Mapanda was seeing my son's wife and he didn't want them to go back to living together." "When my son came out of prison, I insisted that he leave his wife and stay with me working the fields in Caxito but he wouldn't listen. That's what love is like", he says.

António Matias's father-in-law, Kito, had offered him a ride from their house to pick up his ID card but António declined and instead went with some friends around 10am. He walked for about 500 meters to the cabstand and that was the last time that his friends or family saw him alive.

According to his father-in-law, the following night António's body was thrown into a small dumpster near Dreamspace in Viana, along with the bodies of his two friends, Osvaldo and Senacristo, wrapped in black plastic bags. "The local officers saw a Mitsubishi Canter van dump three garbage bags and they thought it was a bit weird that some strangers would drive there to dump garbage, but they didn't say anything. Later, they realized it was dead bodies."

“In the course of our investigation, we received information that they’d been killed by five police collaborators: Anderson ‘DCP’, Coló (from Marçal), Vander (from Ilha de Luanda), Nucho (Luanda-South) and Manda Mbula (Rangel). António was shot in the nose and, according to his father-in-law, he showed signs of torture. The other two, also according to his testimony, were killed by shots to the head and showed signs of torture.

Oswaldo Arriaga’s sister, Paula, says : “I’d like to find out what really happened. My brother was killed with a shot to the forehead. We were only able to identify him from his clothes. It seems to me he had been badly tortured, because he only had two teeth left in his mouth.”

Oswaldo had been in prison on suspicion of stealing a credit card and was released on November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016. “The DNIC [SIC] went to my older brother’s house and took a [Hyundai] i10 car, a very expensive sound system, a HiAce and a motorcycle, all belonging to my older brother. They never returned any of it”, says Paula.

She said the family paid two million kwanzas for Oswaldo’s release, money which was to be transferred to “a government account”. He never went to trial but every two weeks he had to sign a statement at the Kilamba Kiaxi court, to prove his identity and place of abode.

They reported the case to the Criminal Investigation Service. “They just said: ‘it’s on record’; that’s it” said Ramiro ‘Kito’.

## **CASE No. 11: “SHOOTING WITH VISÃO CRISTÃ”**

**VICTIMS:** Borges Domingos Mateus ‘Chá Preto’, 25, from Luanda; Josimar António Gaspar ‘Subeto’, 19, from Luanda; Tunga (no further details available)

**DATE:** March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**LOCATION:** Boa Fé (Caop C), Viana Municipality

### **INCIDENT:**

After conducting a visual reconnaissance – noticed by family members and neighbors – four plain-clothes agents, armed with pistols, surrounded and arrested Chá Preto, Tunga and Subeto, at the latter’s home. Subeto tried to



escape but was caught in a neighbor's backyard. The family noticed it was 2.10pm when the agents took the detainees in a white Toyota Land-Cruiser with tinted windows to the Boa Fé Police Station.

The three boys were members of the Mileva gang. According to family and friends, Chá Preto had escaped summary execution twice, while Subeto, (according to his Uncle Tony) had been arrested twice for robbery. "The first time, in 2014, Josimar spent seven months detained at the Viana County Court; the second time, he spent two months there. They [the Mileva] would mug passing citizens", says the uncle.

After 7pm the family received the news that the three young men had just been executed close to the Visão Cristã Church, near their home. "When we got there, witnesses told us that they had been taken there on motorcycles. They told people to go inside their homes and it was 'women' who shot them", Uncle Tony said.

"My nephew Josimar was shot eight times in the head and the back. He was mostly hit in the head, and he was tied up. Tunga was shot three times in the back and once in the foot." According to his family, Chá Preto died handcuffed with eight bullets in his body, including several in the head. For 15 hours, the bodies were left on display at the scene. They were collected by SIC the next day, after 11am.

"The boy *mexia* [committed petty crime]. Honestly, we all make mistakes and have our flaws, but we don't agree with these shootings. The police have done this and there is no longer a way for us to complain", Uncle Tony laments.

## **CASE No. 12: "THE KILLER TROCA-TIROS"**

**VICTIM:** André Cardoso Pinto 'Ti 500', 22

**DATE:** March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**LOCATION:** Justiceiro Square, Kikolo, Cacuaco Municipality

### **INCIDENT:**

At 4am on February 25<sup>th</sup>, three SIC investigators and one National Police agent arrested André Cardoso Pinto 'Ti 500', at his sister's house. The next

morning, the family went to look for him at the local police stations and found him in Bananeira Police Station. He had been maltreated. Ti 500 spent three nights in jail.

“The police charged us 30,000 kwanzas to release him. We didn’t have that much, so we took 15,000 kwanzas and I personally handed over the money to the investigator in charge of the case, Pula-Pula. We had to go to IFA Police Station [3<sup>rd</sup> Division Command of the National Police], in Cazenga, where Pula-Pula works”, recounts Delfina Teresa, one of the victim’s sisters.

According to Delfina, when she paid him, Pula-Pula warned her that her brother would be killed soon, right there at the station. Delfina’s mother, Teresa Adão, her cousin Débora and her sister Eliete also witnessed this exchange.

From then on, Ti 500 was monitored by Léu and by Troca-Tiros from the Bananeira Police Station. Troca-Tiros was always with agent De Paiva, also known as ‘Pega’. According to Teresa Manuel Adão, “Pega is the snitch who works at the Bananeira Police Station”. Delfina added: “My sister Eliete knows them very well, because she lives next door to the station.”

A week later, on March 7<sup>th</sup> around 8pm, Ti 500 left his sister Delfina’s home and headed for Justiceiro Square to buy cookies, according to his family. “The neighbors saw Troca-Tiros shooting my brother in the shoulder and left flank. He [the brother] started running, and Troca-Tiros shot him in the forehead and the left cheek”, Delfina says.

A friend who was with Ti 500 ran to alert the family. “By the time we got there, the police were already there, waiting for the car to come collect the body”, his sister recalls. “We didn’t go to Troca-Tiros and we didn’t press charges, because the family decided that God would bring justice for Adi’s [Ti 500] death.”

Delfina Teresa describes her brother as a young man “who enjoyed fighting, getting into gang brawls. We, the family, weren’t aware of any other crimes he committed. We only knew about the fights and that he smoked cannabis”.

## **CASE No. 13: “CELEBRATING HIS FIRST YEAR OF LAW SCHOOL”**

**VICTIM:** Ramiro Agostinho António ‘Mitó’, 24

**DATE:** March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**LOCATION:** Jacinto Tchipa , Viana Municipality

### **INCIDENT:**

While returning from Angola’s Technical University (UTANGA), where he’d just received the good news that he had passed to the second year of Law School, Mitó decided to go celebrate with a friend. After briefly stopping by his house, he went out with his friend to have a drink in the local cafeteria.

Around 4pm, when they were walking back home, “a Toyota Hilux van drove by and the occupants shot at them, but missed”, says António Quissanda, Mitó’s cousin. Four individuals, three of them armed with handguns and AK-47s, got out of the van and chased the young men who had set off running. “They managed to grab Mitó, told him to put his hands up and shot him once in the head and once in the neck.”

The killing was witnessed by many passers-by and residents as it happened in a busy area. One of the residents recognized the murderer as a field officer of the Criminal Investigation Service (SIC) who had taken part in a similar raid before. She informed his family, but refused to go with them to SIC to testify, as she feared for her life.

Mitó had been detained for three months at Cantinton Prison and Viana County Court. According to his family, he had been involved in a street brawl while walking with a friend who was suspected of stealing a cell phone. They were both arrested. “He doesn’t have a criminal past. He was just a scared young man.”

António Quissanda says Mitó’s mother is a senior official in the Uíge provincial government and an official of the local branch of the MPLA. At the Viana Municipal County Office, where she went right after her son was murdered, she was told that he had been killed by thugs.

“And that’s all they told her, they didn’t even explain how they had come to that conclusion so quickly without an investigation”, says António Quissanda.

His cousin also said that the family got in touch with the SIC provincial deputy, who denied any involvement in the assassination on the part of his officers, even though he didn't investigate the case.

## **CASE No. 14: “NO ANSWER”**

**VICTIMS:** Cristóvão Francisco João ‘Zé Du’, 26, from Luanda; Irineu da Cruz Nogueira, 22; and a third unidentified citizen

**DATE:** March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017

**LOCATION:** Boa Fé neighborhood, Viana Municipality

### **INCIDENT:**

Witnesses stated that the three young men were together, about to drink some beer and eat *pinchos* (meat kebabs) at the Amizade Cafeteria, when they were approached by four individuals in a Hyundai i10, shortly after 3pm. Three of the agents were wearing shorts and the fourth one was in National Police uniform.

“My son asked them why they were being arrested. They didn't answer. They just took them”, says Isabel António, Zé Du's mother. When she reached the scene, the local saleswomen were compassionate toward Isabel António and told her what they'd seen during the arrests.

According to testimony from those at the scene, confirmed by our investigators from other sources, the captors “walked around with the detainees until it was dark. They returned to the neighborhood, took them to a big backyard near the place where they had arrested them, and shot them there around 9pm”, recounts Tina, Zé Du's sister. “My son was shot three times, once in the head”, laments Isabel António.

In turn Irineu da Cruz Nogueira's mother says that her son “was shot twice in the back and stabbed in the right-hand side of this chest”.

Irineu had a criminal record. According to his mother, he had spent three years and six months on remand, between police stations in Contentor (44<sup>th</sup>), Kapalanca, Luanda's Central County Court and Kakila Penitentiary. “My son had fought with a policeman's son and his father came to my house to arrest him. My son never stood trial. He was only formally questioned once in Kakila Prison, after I fought hard for it. He'd been free for only six months.”

## **CASE No. 15: “IT WAS PULA-PULA WHO KILLED HIM”**

**VICTIM:** Geraldo Emanuel Mayaya ‘Mibalé’, 26, from Luanda

**DATE:** March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017

**LOCATION:** Rua Direita da Pólvora, Augusto Ngangula neighborhood, Kikolo

### **INCIDENT:**

“We were standing outside a cafeteria, drinking beer, when the men showed up around 1.20pm. They arrived on two motorcycles. One of them moved ahead and the other stopped right in front of us. One of them grabbed my brother by his pants”, recounts André Mayaya, Mibalé’s brother.

André Mayaya says that the individuals did not identify themselves, nor did they provide any explanation. “They took my brother to an alleyway, three meters away from where we were. I followed them and one of them got out his gun and warned me that if I followed them, they would kill me too”, he recalls. The brothers were not far from home.

“One of them, without saying anything else, executed my brother with two shots to the head, one to his left arm, which went through his heart, and a fourth in the right-hand ribs. I recognized the man who killed him. It’s Pula-Pula, from SIC. I saw my brother being killed and I’m willing to testify in court”, he concludes.

Mayaya says his brother had been detained for a year and two months, under Case number 19/2015-BQ, and was released on June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016 with a requirement to report weekly to the Cacuaco Municipal Court to sign a Statement of Identity and Residence.

According to his brother, Mibalé had been arrested following an act of rebellion in the workshop where he worked as a mechanic. His boss hadn’t paid him in three months, so he took two Toyota Corolla tires with him, which he then proceeded to sell.

Before getting a job as a mechanic, Mibalé was already on file at Bom Pastor Police Station for having been a member of the “Que Pena” gang. But according to André Mayaya, “After he was released from jail, he never had any trouble with the authority since. He helped me. I’m self-employed, a bricklayer, and he was my assistant”.

## **CASE No. 16: “THE GRANDMOTHER ALSO DIES”**

**VICTIM:** João Tomás Pereira ‘Joãozinho’, 17

**DATE:** February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**LOCATION:** Augusto Ngangula neighborhood, Kikolo, Cacuaco Municipality

### **INCIDENT:**

Joãozinho had dinner with his grandparents as usual then went outside to speak to his best friend, his ‘Bro’, beside the cafeteria that his grandfather had built in his backyard with an outside entrance for customers. The teenager was a student who helped his grandfather at the cafeteria in his spare time.

A Toyota Starlet had been circling the street for some time, making the residents suspicious. On its fourth round, the three occupants of the car found the two teenage boys talking. “They just told us to get in the car, but they couldn’t make us. The three [men in the vehicle] were wearing black jackets with black hoods covering their faces. They didn’t even ask us our names”, recounts Bro.

“They got out and grabbed us by the waist. We said we were innocent and that we were in our home. I pushed one of them, lost my balance and they dragged me to the trunk of the car”, Bro recalls. Then, the driver got out to make Joãozinho get into the car trunk too, as his friend testified.

There and then Joãozinho was summarily executed, and all Bro could do was run for his life. “Joãozinho refused [to get in the trunk] and held on to the rail. The driver said, ‘these boys are giving us trouble’. He grabbed his head, held it down and shot him in the neck, on his right side, near his ear.”

“The one who was with me motioned to fire the gun at me. I don’t know how I managed to escape. It was God. I ran off into an alleyway and they didn’t follow me”, Bro says. He adds that he has never been arrested or involved in any criminal activity. His family had to send him outside Luanda, to protect him.

64-year-old Graça Tomás ran to the backyard when she heard the gunshot and, as she saw her grandson lying on the floor, she suffered a seizure. Pedro Pereira thought she had just fainted. He left his grandson and went to his wife’s rescue, to take her to hospital. But she was already dead.

As Pedro Pereira was driving to the hospital, immediately – and as promptly as if someone was already waiting around the corner – a vehicle for collecting bodies appeared and took Joãozinho’s body.

“I raised my grandson ever since he was little. He was an orphan. He had never been to jail or been in any trouble. Everyone here knows my wife wasn’t a criminal, and she died too. I would like this case to be taken to court”, says Pedro Pereira.

## **CASE No. 17: “THE LAST CONFESSION”**

**VICTIM:** Rodrino Saliomba ‘Hino’, 23, from Huambo

**DATE:** February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**LOCATION:** Pequena Ilha soccer field, Chimuco, Viana Municipality

### **INCIDENT:**

According to his brother Nuno Saliomba’s testimony, on February 12<sup>th</sup> a family who’d allegedly had their cell phone stolen by his brother Rodrino, took him to their home and kept him prisoner, beating him, before handing him over to the National Police at the Mirú Police Station. Hino was detained at that station until he was led to his local soccer field, where he was shot.

Carlos Manuel Cassoma witnessed his nephew’s execution by accident as he was walking by: “They were men from the Criminal Investigation Service (SIC). They brought him on a three-wheel motorbike. They forced him to run and they shot him with four bullets, one in the head and three in his back.”

“Before he died, the boy told me: ‘They brought me outside the jail and I thought they were going to release me, but it turns out they wanted to shoot me’, and then he died”, the uncle says.

Carlos Cassoma saw the five men who carried out the execution, all dressed in jeans and without the usual vests which identify them as SIC agents. According to him, “the officers fired many shots to scare away the locals and after a few minutes the National Police patrol car appeared to collect the body”.

“To be quite honest, my brother was a thug and belonged to the Sete Quedas gang, which later changed its name to ‘Os Metidos’”, says his 16-year-old brother Nuno Saliomba. “He was detained many times never

for longer than six months and he was always released without trial. In the beginning we, his family, would visit and advise him to quit that life. As he would never take our advice, we grew apart.”

## **CASE No. 18: “ABEGA OR DROGBA, IT’S ALL THE SAME”**

**VICTIM:** Pedro Avelino Eduardo ‘Abega’, 25.

**DATE:** February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**LOCATION:** Compão neighborhood, Cacuaco Municipality

### **INCIDENT:**

While he was having a beer with some friends, two men approached Abega in a vehicle identified as a Hyundai i10. “One of them called me from far away, the other got out of the car and said to me ‘you’re Drogba, we’re going to kill you now’.”

Nicknames and diminutives are common among Angolan men regardless of social status. Drogba and Abega were nicknamed after famous soccer players: the legendary Ivory Coast striker Didier Drogba and the Cameroonian midfielder Théophile Abega who was a star in the 80s.

“I said no. I showed my ID to the tallest, the bigger man, to prove I wasn’t Drogba. He wanted to help me, but the other one said: ‘we’re going to kill you anyway’. He had a gun with a silencer and he shot me in my left eye”, Abega recounts. He fell to the ground and the gunman shot him twice in his abdomen: “My bro, I don’t even know how I survived.”

“When my family got the news, they went to the police to press charges (Compão police station) and they told them that they couldn’t move me because I was a criminal. Some men from the SIC later came by with a car for collecting bodies. They realized I was innocent and left me there on the ground, moaning, and they left”, says Abega.

Abega earned his living as a taxi driver and lives with his aunt and uncle. That tragic day was his day off and he’d spent the afternoon doing his laundry. “I couldn’t believe it when they said they were going to kill me. They’re killing every criminal in the neighborhood but I’m not one of them.”



One of the friends he was having a beer with is a National Police (NP) officer. Asking for his name to be withheld, he bemoans the fact that his friend was a victim of the death squad: “I know Abega very well. He’s a very quiet young man and he’s dedicated to his work and family.”

Abega’s boss, the owner of the minivan he used as a taxi, advised the young men to avoid that area and to work less at night, given the recent wave of executions of alleged criminals in the neighborhood.

“I saw the man shoot Abega in the head. The first bullet got stuck, the partner with him on that mission also got his gun jammed. I shouted to Abega to run, but they dragged him behind a bus, where they shot him”, recalls the NP officer. “We ran to him and saw him lying on the floor. The second killer shot him again in the back.”

According to this witness, executions in Cacuaco Municipality are organized by neighborhood and they are particularly prevalent in Compão and Caelele – but those aren’t the only areas.

Abega lost his left eye, his ear is damaged, and he lost the hearing in that ear. On this occasion, contrary to their intent, they did not cause the death of another innocent person. Instead, they left Pedro Avelino an invalid, forcing him to join the ranks of unemployed young men.

## **CASE No. 19: “IS CRIME TRANSFERABLE? SHUT UP!”**

**VICTIMS:** Pedro Fernandes ‘KV’, 23, from Luanda; Caramelo (age and origin unverified); and one other young man (unidentified)

**DATE:** February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**LOCATION:** Kikolo

### **INCIDENT:**

According to testimony from family members and friends, KV and six friends were alleged to have robbed a group of female street vendors in Rua Direita da Kianda, in Kikolo. The ladies would buy products wholesale

at the local warehouses and then resell them at the Luvo border [in Zaire province]. On the day [of the robbery], they said they had 12 million kwanzas on them in a purse.

“In November [2016], we heard that Pedro Fernandes had mugged a lady,” says his uncle Paulo Neves. His family berated him, and he ran away from home. In January, SIC agents staged a dawn raid [on KV’s home], beating everyone in the family. The officers woke his three sisters up and beat them as they found them in the bedroom, semi-naked, to try to force them to say where their brother was and hand over the money. Since KV wasn’t at home, they took his uncle to the Boa-Esperança Police Station. “At the station, I asked if the crime is transferable. I said they were infringing on my rights and they told me to shut up”, Paulo Neves recounts. We only found out he [KV] was dead on February 4<sup>th</sup>.

Enquiries in the area revealed that the day before KV’s execution, he and Caramelo spent the night in Sécil neighborhood, at the home of a gang of petty criminals also wanted by the police. The hosts didn’t spend the night there. It was at that house that they captured KV, Caramelo and another young man, whose identity has not been established. “My nephew was shot eight times, including once in the head; Caramelo was shot three times, including once in the head; the stranger was shot three times in the head.”

## **CASE No. 20: “THE POLICE DO NOT HELP THIEVES”**

**VICTIM:** ‘Bad Lilas’ (also known as ‘Brasileiro’), 23

**DATE:** February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017

**LOCATION:** Kianda market, Kikolo

### **INCIDENT:**

In October 2016 Bad Lilas was arrested at the Caelele Police Station on suspicion of armed robbery and theft of a cell phone. At some point he was taken out of his jail cell and told to wash the commander’s car on the street. The young man did as he was told, then took advantage of the officers’ distraction to run away.

It was his fourth arrest on suspicion of robbery since 2013.

According to his mother, on the day he was killed, a friend went to collect him around 9am from home for them to do “a job”. Before they left, they smoked a spliff and headed to Kianda market, where they had been set up. According to the testimony of friends and people present, he was cornered by four individuals on motorcycles, two on each. They forced him onto one of the motorcycles in between the other two occupants and took him to an alleyway which connects to Kikolo market, only a few meters away.

“Bad Lilas saw a National Police officer walking past, known as Chief Lâmina, and he begged him to help him”, one of the young men recalls. “Chief Lâmina replied that he doesn’t help thieves.”

According to testimony from passers-by who happened to be walking along the alleyway, his executioner told him “Today is your last day” before ending Bad Lilas’s life with three shots to the forehead, one to the neck and a final one to the abdomen.

## **CASE No. 21: “INTERFERING WITH POLICE ‘WORK’**

**VICTIMS:** Santos Miguel Samuel ‘Califa’, 22, from Luanda; Emílio Manuel Mbaxi ‘Sebas’, 22, from Luanda

**DATE:** January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**LOCATION:** Cardoso neighborhood, Kikolo, Cacuaco Municipality

### **INCIDENT:**

Sebas and Califa had two friends from Viana visiting at Sebas’s house. They cooked and ate lunch together. Califa then left to cut a client’s hair at his sister’s salon, where he worked, before returning to the social gathering.

“At 6.45pm, we walked our friends to the *candongueiro* stop [public taxis]. They left, and we stuck around, drinking beer. I told Califa we should go home so I could get my cell phone, which I’d forgotten. It was 7pm already”, Sebas recalls. Just a few minutes later as they made their way back home, they came across two young men.

“As soon as they saw Califa, they started shooting [with pistols]. They shot him once in the chest and once in the stomach. He turned to run, and they shot him again, in the back of the head”, Sebas recalls. “When they killed Califa, I thought they would let me live, because I didn’t know anything [about other people’s criminal activity]”, says Sebas. The young man is a woodworker and worked at Kikolo market, where he had his own furniture repair stand. “I never stole anything, I never hurt anyone. I only met Califa on Saturdays and Sundays, because I worked Monday to Friday”, he explains.

For the gunmen, none of that mattered. “They turned to me and started shooting. They hit my right arm. I was already running when the second shot went through my abdomen and came out the right-hand side”, the young man describes. Sebas managed to continue to run a few meters, even after he had been shot for the third time, in his left thigh.

“I went into a two-story building and I climbed up to the first floor where I fell [face down]. The two men followed me. One of the killers moved my head with his gun to see if I was still alive. The other one said: ‘Let’s get out of here, because people will be coming soon.’ I could barely breathe. They thought I was already dead, so they left.” Sebas then got up and made his way out into the street without help, refusing advice given by a young woman who saw him on the stairs after his attackers had left and who wanted to hide him.

“People were afraid to help me. Since I was close to home, a friend of mine – Paciência – took charge and showed up with a friend who had a car and rescued me. He took me to Cajueiros Hospital where they didn’t have the means to treat me and they transferred me to Américo Boavida Hospital.” “Because he helped me, the SIC men went to Paciência’s house twice”, Sebas says.

Paciência confirms what happened, recalling that, on the day after the shooting, “SIC agents came to my house looking for me. I had to sleep over at my aunt’s”.

A few days later, on February 1<sup>st</sup>, “the SIC men approached me on the way to work. First, they checked whether my face was on their tablet. Then they told me never to interfere with police work again”.

Even though he doesn’t know the agents’ names, Paciência is sure he’d be able to identify them. “There were four agents in a burgundy Hyundai i10 with tinted windows. They warned me that next time I found someone in that state, I should stay out of it. They gave me that advice and then left.”

Califa's sister Maria da Conceição says "I don't know why they killed my brother". She says that until 2015 Califa lived in Cazenga Municipality, where he was part of a gang that was often involved in fights. "In one of those fights, someone opened up his chin and lips with a blade, and he was hit with a machete on his forehead", she recounts.

After that incident, Maria da Conceição persuaded her brother to move in with her and she gave him a job at her salon as a barber and a tattoo artist. After moving in with her, Califa was arrested only once and was detained for one night at Alfa-5 Police Station in the Combustível neighborhood, on suspicion of taking part in stealing car batteries from a parking lot in the Cardoso neighborhood. "Since then, the only trouble Califa ever had was with clients whose hair he cut and who refused to pay".

Meanwhile, as a result of the surgery he had to undergo because of the bullet that went through his abdomen, Sebas lost his job.

## **CASE No. 22: "HIS HEAD NO LONGER WORKED"**

**VICTIMS:** Salomão Bernardo Kissanga Sacaia 'Mestre Deque', 29, from Luanda; Kleber Monteiro José Bernardo, 17, from Malanje

**DATE:** January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**LOCATION:** Caelele neighborhood, Cacuaco Municipality

### **INCIDENT:**

"My son (Mestre Deque) was shot outside my house," says António Bernardo. "He tried to run and ended up dying in the neighbor's backyard, shot in the back and in hand."

He says that around 7pm Mestre Deque was sitting outside his house talking to Kleber, who was visiting from the province of Lunda-Norte where he was studying at Dundo-Centre Pre-College. According to witnesses, Kleber was killed where he was sitting, taking a bullet in the neck. Ironically, neighbors' say that Kleber's father is himself a high-ranking SIC officer in Lunda-Norte.

Mestre Deque's brother Pedro witnessed the incident: "There were three DNIC [SIC] agents and they showed up asking my brother to come with them.

He refused and one of the agents took out his gun and fired the first shot at his right arm”, his brother Pedro recounts.

António Bernardo says his son was mentally ill: “He had worked for a security company at an embassy but then he went crazy. Everyone knew his head no longer worked. The police knew it and we tried everything we could to help him but it didn’t work.”

Over the month of January Mestre Deque was arrested twice at home. “In the first week, the police officers from Bate Nu Police Station [Uíge neighborhood] came to get him. After many hours they released him, saying he hadn’t done anything. On January 15<sup>th</sup> they took him again, this time to Caelele Police Station, again without any kind of justification, and again they released him.”

Then on January 20<sup>th</sup> National Police officers came to arrest him at home for the third time but they couldn’t find him. “The policemen came with a plaintiff, who said he had bought my son and three friends some beers on the street and that they had stolen 40,000 kwanzas from him”, António Bernardo says.

“After they killed my son, the commander [from Caelele Police Station] came to collect the details in person while his men collected the bodies. He gave me his phone number, but he didn’t say his name. No one here knows his name.” “They are really SIC [not National Police] who do the killing and then the officers from the police station come to collect the bodies. They are killing neighborhood by neighborhood. They started in Compão and now they’ve moved to our neighborhood.”

“We know the boy *mexia* [committed petty crime]. Let’s leave it at that.” “Even someone who kills has a right to a trial, how come my son wasn’t allowed one?” “We’re afraid that they’ll kill us too if we talk,” he concludes.

## **CASE No. 23: “TAKEN WHILE GETTING HIS FIANCÉE’S BUS TICKET”**

**VICTIM:** Armando Florindo Culimbala, 28, from Luanda (family from Bié)

**DATE:** January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**LOCATION:** Campo da Concórdia, Kikolo, Cacuaco Municipality

### **INCIDENT:**

Around 10am, Armando went to the Macon bus station to buy a ticket for his fiancée, Marisa, who was going back to Uíge, where she was studying. At 11am, witnesses saw him being forced into a black Jeep with tinted windows outside the Kikolo administration offices. Where they took him, no one knows.

“Around 7pm, some people came to our house to tell us that they’d seen Culimbala’s body being thrown into a dumpster in Campo da Concórdia. We went over there and saw it was true”, explains his uncle, Pascoal Xangele. “My nephew had worked in a grocery store for nine years. He was never a criminal. Until now, we have no information. He died an innocent man”, he laments.

## **CASE No. 24: “THE MOTHER SEES WHO KILLS HER SON”**

**VICTIM:** Kilandamoko João António ‘Ti Porém’, 26

**DATE:** January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**LOCATION:** Caelele neighborhood, Cacuaco Municipality

### **INCIDENT:**

On December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016, Ti Porém benefited from an Amnesty Law and returned home after having served two years and seven months of a ten-year sentence. According to his mother, Esperança Mafuta, known as ‘Makiesse’,

Ti Porém was required to attend Caelele Police Station three times a week to sign a form. He found a job at one of the Cacucaco power substations and managed to get the number of days he needed to go sign the paper reduced to a weekly basis.

“On the day they killed him, the police station refused to accept his signature. They said that the Criminal Investigation [SIC] officers hadn’t arrived yet and that he didn’t need to sign anymore”, his mother says. Ti Porém headed back home to get his tools and go back to work. As soon as he stepped out of his front door, his mother heard her son screaming “Makiesse, come outside, come see this man who is going to kill me!”

“I went to check out what was going on and I saw one of the men firing three shots at my son. One hit his left hand, one hit his right hand and the third one hit him in the head”, she says. She identified the killer as one of the most infamous agents, “known as Pula-Pula”, who operates out of the IFA Police Station and has jurisdiction over Caelele Police Station.

The victim’s father, from whom she has been separated for many years, is an officer at the Migration and Foreigners Service. “My ex-husband asked the police officers why they had killed my son if the government had granted him amnesty.” “It was the government who decided to release my son just to kill him like this? I don’t know what to say anymore”, laments Makiesse.

She adds: “The killer himself, Pula-Pula, showed up at my house at the wake and went to the funeral. He was always surrounded by police officers.” “The government are the ones encouraging crime if they kill those who no longer want to steal. My son didn’t run. I told his killers he hadn’t done anything.”



## **CASE No. 25: “THE GAS AMBUSH”**

**VICTIM:** Hernâni Domingos ‘Pai Kwan’, 19, from Luanda

**DATE:** January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**LOCATION:** Rua Ngola Kiluanje, Kikolo, Cacuaco Municipality

### **INCIDENT:**

Hernâni Domingos lived with his mother until she died in 2015 when he was a 17-year-old. He fell in with a gang.

His cousin Fernando says: “I tried to talk him into following the right path, but he didn’t listen. We drifted apart.” Some weeks afterwards, Pai Kwan was arrested on suspicion of having taken part in an armed robbery. He spent a year and a half in prison and afterwards his father, Alberto Pino, intervened, becoming his guardian and finding him a job as a mechanic.

Fernando says: “As he had already been in custody at the Bom Pastor Police Station, when they received orders to finish them all, he couldn’t escape.”

According to witnesses, on the day he was killed four agents headed to the Cambota car garage (near the Peças Market), where Hernâni worked at 4pm, in a black Hyundai i10 or i20. They spoke to the supervisor and asked him to send Pai Kwan with a jerrycan to buy gas from the nearby gas station. His co-workers said that as soon as the young man came out, the four left the garage.

Pai Kwan got the gas and was waiting for a motorcycle taxi by the Universal Church of the Kingdom of God to head back to the garage when he was ambushed. A witness says the agents “called him [to the car], showed him his photo on a tablet and said, ‘you know’.” Other bystanders said the men ordered him to start walking and when he turned his back on them “they finished him off with two gunshots to the head and one to the left side of his back”.

Interviewed by phone, Alberto Pinto said: “My son is dead, there’s nothing that can be said or done. This country has an owner, and if he’s decided this way...” With that, he hangs up the phone.

## **CASE No. 26: “HIS PHOTO WAS ON THE TABLET”**

**VICTIM:** Eliseu Amado ‘Young Back’, 26, from Luanda

**DATE:** January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**LOCATION:** Ngola Kiluanje Street, Kikolo, Cacuaco Municipality

### **INCIDENT:**

Eliseu was known locally as the leader of the B-12 gang, often involved in fights with local young men and stealing cell phones. His mother, Teresa Fernando, tells us that, a few days before he died, Eliseu had been detained for two days in Caelele police station. He was drunk and got involved in a fight, ending up throwing a rock and breaking a car window. “I had the money, I paid for the windshield and he was released”, she says.

On the day he died, Eliseu dropped by his mom’s house around 4pm. She had left him some money for dinner. “He was unemployed and spent his days in the square as a “taxi caller” [drawing customers to cabs], but he didn’t earn very much and I supported him”, explains his mother, who sells quissangua [a home-made brew made from rice or corn].

After his sister gave him the money, Eliseu walked to the cabstand where he bought some *pinchos* [meat kebabs] having decided to have his dinner right there. Witnesses say a black Hyundai i10 pulled up in front of the young man and that one of the four occupants called to him, asking him if he was Young Back.

“They [the car occupants] saw Young Back’s photo on their tablet, told him he was a criminal and told him to get in the car, but he refused”, described one of the witnesses, whose account was confirmed by a second witness. Both wanted their names withheld.

His mother was told this: “The SIC men and police officers got out of the car and dragged him forcibly to an alleyway, where they shot him”. The same witnesses told her that Eliseu’s killers “fired three shots at his head and another three at his back”. “Half an hour later, they went to kill his cousin [Pai Kwan, Case N°. 25]”.

## **CASE No. 27: “FROM COLLABORATOR TO VICTIM”**

**VICTIM:** Lucas Gonçalves ‘Tilson’, 29, from Huambo

**DATE:** January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017

**LOCATION:** Compão neighborhood, Kikolo

### **INCIDENT:**

Family and friends say Tilson had a reputation as both a *batuqueiro* (a car thief) and a SIC collaborator.

On the day he died, Tilson had just returned home from taking his brother Emílio Chicomo to hospital. His sister, Isabel Cardoso described what happened next: “One of his friends showed up and while they were talking he got a phone call. We heard him saying ‘yá wi’, I’m on my way.” “They were waiting for him in the alleyway outside our house. He stepped outside holding his five-year-old son’s hand. We heard shots, then the child screaming. We knew it was him. It was scary.”

According to residents drinking in the cafeteria next to where Tilson was shot, the executioners killed him while he was holding his son’s hand, leaving the terrified boy screaming.

Isabel Cardoso confirms the information provided by neighbors who claimed her brother was a SIC collaborator. “To save himself from being accused of committing crimes, he collaborated by pointing out criminals in the neighborhood.” In the end it didn’t save him. “They shot him twice in the head and three times in the chest, on the left-hand side. Neighbors ran to help him, but he died on the way [to hospital].”

The police and the criminal investigation team who turned up after her brother’s death behaved strangely. “They came to the scene and informed us that they didn’t know anything and that whoever called my brother was the one who killed him. After that, we didn’t hear from them again.”

To make this family tragedy even worse, on hearing that his brother had been murdered, Emílio Chicomo “had a seizure (...) and he died the next day.”

## **CASE No. 28: “THE LAST SPLIFF”**

**VICTIMS:** Miguel Arcanjo, 21, from Huambo; Adelino Alfredo Cambeu; Severino Condengo da Silva ‘Yuri Pi’, 19, from Luanda

**DATE:** January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**LOCATION:** Compão neighborhood, Cacuaco Municipality

### **INCIDENT:**

About Miguel, several neighbors testified that he was a very quiet young man whose biggest ‘crime’ was his habit of smoking cannabis. At about 7pm Miguel was getting ready for dinner when one of his friends, Adelino Cambeu, knocked on the door to suggest they smoke a joint together in the alleyway. They were joined there by Yuri Pi and another man named Cassule, who according to witnesses at the scene, had just come over to return a borrowed box of matches when he came across the group that would kill his friends.

Adelino Cambeu had leaned against the wall to urinate and was the first to be hit by two shots to the head. Then it was Miguel’s turn. Cassule recalls hearing Yuri begging them not to kill him after he was shot in the chest. In reply one of the gunmen shot him another two times. In all, Yuri was shot five times, the bullets striking him in the chest and abdomen, according to his sister, Marta Silva.

It was about 10pm when the Criminal Investigation Service (SIC) came to collect the bodies and called the families to come and identify the victims. “I went over to them to identify my brother and they told me to leave because they already had ‘the criminals’ names’”, Marta says.

“The SIC left a piece of paper at the [Josina Machel] morgue with the names of the boys they had shot in the area on that day. Yuri’s name was not on the list we saw. The SIC investigator we met there told us: ‘So it turns out the coward had a different name?’ That’s when we realized they kill at random. The list included the names of Bebu, Miguel, Adelino and two others [unknown].”

One of the SIC agents at the scene, known by the name of Chalana, asked the family: “Why are you complaining? Your son is a thief.’ The family had tried to steer Yuri away from a life of crime, his mother sending him to live with her sister, Justina, in Paraíso neighborhood. On the day he died, “Aunt

Justina asked him not to leave the house because her chest was feeling tight. But Yuri received a phone call to come to our neighborhood and left [Paraíso] at 6am”, says Marta. “He spent the whole day with us. Around 6pm, my cousin Emílio came by and we sat down as a family. We asked him to get Yuri a job in the company where he works. He told us which documents were needed.”

Yuri then took a shower and soon after his friend Adelino came by asking him to go out. Minutes later (between 7 and 7.10pm), the family heard gunshots and his “cousin Emílio came back with his hands on his head. Yuri was dead, next to his own front gate”, Marta recalls.

In December 2016 Yuri had been detained at the Caelele Police Station on suspicion of the burglary of a neighbor’s house. “Ti Bula [a neighbor] came to our house to fetch Yuri. They went to the Caelele Police Station. He wanted to clear his name because he was innocent of the crime he was being accused of”, she says, “but he was arrested.”

In a bizarre twist, the investigator asked Yuri’s family to find the original plaintiff, a neighbor who had witnessed the attempted burglary and who named three young men as responsible - but the plaintiff had moved out of the neighborhood.

Marta da Silva says one of the young men who’d been named was in custody and had given police her brother’s name “out of fear of police torture and because his friends threatened to kill his father if he gave them away.”

Yuri’s family spent an entire week following up leads from family and neighbors to try and find the plaintiff to prove Yuri’s innocence. When they finally found her, she accompanied them to the police station where she cleared Yuri’s name, alleging she too had been threatened by the two (friends of the young man in custody).

“The police then told us that, even though my brother was innocent, we had to pay 50 thousand kwanzas for his release, otherwise they would redirect him to Luanda’s Central District”, explains Marta Silva. They paid up and Yuri was released on December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

“I had heard that my brother committed robberies. But that was the only time he was detained’, concluded his sister.

## **CASE No. 29: “THE LIEUTENANT-COLONEL’S SON”**

**VICTIM:** Avelino Zacarias António ‘Bebu’, 20, from Luanda (father from Uíge, mother from Huambo)

**DATE:** January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**LOCATION:** Compão, Cacuaco Municipality

### **INCIDENT:**

In September 2016 Avelino ‘Bebu’ and two friends were detained while they were having a few beers in a local square. His brother Zeca admits that Bebu belonged to the ‘Bate à Toa’ gang.

His father, Lieutenant-Colonel José António, gives an account of what followed his son’s arrest. Bebu spent four months in jail, with brief spells at Caelele Station and at Cacuaco Municipal Station as well Kakila Penitentiary where he served out his sentence before his father ‘bought’ his release.

“The investigator from the Criminal Investigation Service who was in charge of his case made me pay 270,000 kwanzas for releasing my son. I sold my car, paid the investigator and he was released in December”, he recounts. According to Lieutenant-Colonel António, his son rarely left the house after he was released in December and he spent the following two weeks in SIC custody.

Within a few days, “between the 10<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of December, a man from FAA (the Angolan Armed Forces), in uniform, came to my house with the SIC men and they arrested my son again. I went with him to SIC headquarters where they told me that they were only doing a routine check”. Bebu remained in custody for six days before he was released.

The following week, they had yet another visit from SIC, this time by a “neighbor officer who went by the name of Zé”, who arrested him and his two friends again. “The three of them spent another six days in the SIC cells, and officer Zé charged us another 30,000 kwanzas to release the boy”, his father explains.

Bebu stayed closed to home after that and it was there that the killers found him, just after 6pm, sitting outside the gate to his house, playing with his nephews next to him. He was with seven-year-old Joel, who was playing with his cell phone, and five-year-old Gelson.

The attackers approached in two Hyundai i10 or i20 vehicles. The witnesses struggle to tell the two models apart. “One of them walked over and asked my son if he had credit on his phone and he said no. Two others got out of the car and pushed him”, the father explains. Eye witnesses recount that the vehicle occupants had an iPad to confirm the target’s identity from photos having asked him if he was Bebu.

His brother Zeca saw it all. “I was in the backyard and saw two guys grabbing my brother. He asked, ‘what did I do?’” Witnesses watching from the street confirm that the killers tried to make him turn his back to his executioner, but he refused. The first shot hit him in the abdomen and then he was fatally shot in the head. The children also saw everything. As Zeca approached his brother’s body, the killers fired two shots at him. “It was pure luck that I survived”, he says.

The Lieutenant-Colonel is a disillusioned man. A war veteran, he commanded the 106 Battalion on missions to the Democratic Republic of Congo and before that, on missions in the Republic of Congo. He declined to complete a third mission in Guinea-Bissau and was suspended without pay.

“That’s the MPLA for you. We live in slavery. They kill people as if they were goats and we have nowhere to turn to complain.” The grieving father directly accuses the Criminal Investigation Service (SIC) and the National Police (PN) for being responsible for the wave of executions which also took his son.

“Criminals don’t kill in this way: so many on the same day, with lists, three or four cars with tinted Windows? It’s impossible. My nephew is a National Police inspector, and we pressed charges with SIC. Since the killing was their doing, they won’t investigate. They don’t value life, it’s like killing goats.”

He tells us that the group who killed his son went on to shoot other local young men. “We live near a UPIP office and they didn’t get involved because they know it’s their colleagues who are doing killing”, he says. “I’ve been with the MPLA for a long time. The colonizers and UNITA would kill in secret. MPLA kills out in the open. Not even goats and chickens are killed like this. I’m in a lot of pain”, he says.

## **CASE No. 30: “THE UNCLE ALSO HANGS HIMSELF”**

**VICTIM:** Joaquim Diogo Bandessa, 42, from Malanje

**DATE:** January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**LOCATION:** Cambiri neighborhood, Viana Municipality

### **INCIDENT:**

Bandessa was at a neighbor’s house when he saw a group of individuals take his motorcycle, which was parked outside. Eye witnesses say that “some were wearing civilian clothes, but others were wearing SIC vests”. Bandessa confronted them.

Speaking on behalf of his family, his brother António Patrício Diogo says “one of the individuals insulted my mother and my brother tried to react. The other one shot him in the back and he ran over to a friend’s house calling for help. As he reached the neighbor’s door, they shot him in the back three more times”. He goes on: “once he was dead, there were policemen there to collect the body within less than five minutes. It all looked set up and the motorcycle served as an ambush”.

António Patrício Diogo says his brother Bandessa had been in jail once for ten days, in 2010, at Mirú Police Station, for selling drugs and admits that “on the same day he was shot, he had sold some narcotics.” He goes on: “At the Viana Municipal Command, my uncle Martins Diogo Salomão was informed that his nephew [Bandessa] had been shot dead by the SIC for being involved in drug dealing. Seven weeks later [on February 7<sup>th</sup>], my uncle hanged himself.”

## **CASE No. 31: “THEY WANT HIM DEAD”**

**VICTIM:** Basílio Canjengo ‘Na Cela’, 20

**DATE:** December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016

**LOCATION:** Mulenvos de Cima neighborhood, Viana Municipality



## INCIDENT:

“The DNIC [SIC] are searching for my son to assassinate him”, accuses Angelina Cahundo, Na Cela’s mother.

“On December 16<sup>th</sup>, the DNIC [SIC] came to my house.” She describes the agent: “A light-skinned man came, he was mixed race, tall. He’s the one who’s been finishing off the local young men. They call him ‘Van Damme’. He has a scar from his mouth to his left ear. He’s well-built.”

Van Damme was accompanied by a collaborator known as Jojó. “He’s the one who points out to the police the young men to be shot”, says Angelina Cahundo. “They arrived at 5am. They knocked on the door and I went to open it. They wanted to speak to my daughter and they asked her about her brother, and she told them that Na Cela wasn’t home. They searched his room but couldn’t find a single ‘needle’.”

“Van Damme looked at my 8-year-old son Gabriel and told him that, if his brother was home, that would be his last day on earth. They came by another eight times up to December 23<sup>rd</sup>”, she recalls. As well as those house calls, Van Damme and his collaborator came by the stall where Angelina Cahundo sells second-hand clothes and where Na Cela often helped.

Na Cela’s mother believes a neighbor put his name on a death list. “It was Simão Catequele, our neighbor, who made a list of the young men that were to be shot. His son is called Cinquentado. They often have DNIC [SIC] men, the killers and police in uniform around their house, where they drink and plan their jobs”, accuses Angelina Cahundo. “When Mr. Catequele made the list with his sons, there was a young man present who read the names and warned some of his friends. Two hours later, the police went to get two of the boys on the list, Jambito and Simão [Case N° 36].”

His mother says Na Cela was arrested once, the previous year. “He was coming home from a casual job, working as a bricklayer. He was drunk, they took him to the station and he spent the night there. The police charged me 20,000 kwanzas to release him.”

Of Na Cela she says: “My son drinks a lot and smokes cannabis, but he doesn’t steal. I’m the one who supports him. He also works as a hairdresser and goes to church.”

## **CASE No. 32: “EXECUTED AT HIS FRIEND’S WAKE”**

**VICTIM:** Anderson Francisco Avelino Agostinho ‘Da Saia’, 22, from Luanda

**DATE:** December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016

**LOCATION:** Bananeira neighborhood, Cacuaco Municipality

### **INCIDENT:**

On the night of December 5<sup>th</sup>, Anderson attended a friend’s wake to pay his respects. He joined up with some friends, sitting out on the street outside the door to his house. Around 10pm, according to his brother Carlos Agostinho’s testimony, a young man called Da Saia aside so they could speak in private. He was lured to a more isolated place, where he met his death.

“There were some men drinking, not in uniform, and one of them hit my brother with two gunshots to the head and one to the chest.” “Garantia ‘Bad Langa’ identified the killers as DNIC [SIC] agents. He knew them well and told us who they were. Towards the end of February, the men who shot my brother also killed Garantia”, says Carlos.

Da Saia had a criminal record. He’d served a nine-month prison sentence “due to a fight” and another seven months in prison the following year “for having beaten up and injured a young man”. Released in October on parole, Da Saia had to sign in at the Bananeira Police Station. “On the day he died, he had been to the police station to sign the form, and the agents told him that was the last time he would sign. They were always threatening to kill him”, says Carlos.

His brother notes with sadness that after his death, the family got news that Da Saia had been selected to work at the Madar detergent factory. “We fought so hard to find him a job. Unfortunately, we were too late.”

## **CASE No. 33: “THE DOMINGOS BROTHERS AND DE NADA THE KILLER”**

**VICTIMS:** Brothers António Domingos ‘Tony’, 20; Ernesto Sapalo Domingos “René”, 18, both from Huambo; and two others identified only as residents of Cazenga Municipality

**DATE:** November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016

**LOCATION:** “Killing Field”, Mirú neighborhood, Viana Municipality

### **INCIDENT:**

The brothers had been hanging out on the street with friends at about 10pm on November 15<sup>th</sup> when they were arrested. “Neighbors witnessed my brothers’ arrest by SIC agents wearing [agency] vests and driving a white Toyota Land Cruiser”, says their elder brother, Alberto Domingos.

Straight after the arrest, Alberto went looking for his brothers at the various Viana police stations without success. “We went to Mirú station and they told us to go to the Viana Municipal County offices. When we got there, they told us they didn’t know anything.”

Three days later Alberto was at work when around 2.30pm he received phone calls from neighbors informing him that his brothers had been shot just minutes before at the place now known as the “Killing Field”. He ran there.

“People know us in our neighborhood, so the witnesses informed me that my brothers had been taken to the field in a white Toyota Land Cruiser, along with two other boys. There were four agents dressed in blue DNIC [SIC] vests. They told them to get out of the car one by one, blindfolded, and then told them to run”, he says.

“They were shot as soon as they got out of the car, in front of everybody, right there by the school and in broad daylight. They were bare-chested. Tony was hit by two shots. One in his head and one in his back. Ernesto turned around to look at his attackers and was shot four times in the abdomen.”

The two unknown young men were also killed, each with two shots in the back.

Less than 15 minutes later, National Police officers arrived with vehicles to collect the bodies. They stayed at the scene until 7pm, preventing the families from approaching the victims, leaving the bodies on display. Alberto Domingos says one of the main perpetrators, and the mission leader, is well-known in the neighborhood. “He’s known as De Nada”, he says. “He started off as a SIC collaborator, now he’s a field officer stationed at the Mirú Police Station.” Witnesses have confirmed Alberto’s account.

The brothers lost their father when they were very young and three years ago they also lost their mother, leaving Alberto as the head of the family. “My brothers didn’t steal. I looked after them. I was the one who supported them”, he says, adding that “they never had any trouble with the law”. “Maybe they were just mistaken for someone else”, he concludes, as if this was all just a case of bad luck.

## **CASE No. 34: “INJECTED WITH BATTERY ACID?”**

**VICTIMS:** Hilário Caetano Muzumbi ‘Mala de Dinheiro’, 20, from Kwanza Norte; another four unidentified individuals

**DATE:** November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016

**LOCATION:** Ponte Partida Police Station, Viana Municipality

### **INCIDENT:**

Nelson Silveira says his nephew (Mala de Dinheiro) had only been back in Luanda for four days, having brought his wife home for a visit. He says Mala de Dinheiro went out with a group of friends who belonged to a gang with a rather offensive and vulgar name, which he doesn’t specify.

The uncle says that one of the gang members left his backpack in the *candongueiro* (taxi) they’d taken. The taxi driver handed it to the National Police, who found there was a gun inside. They waited for the owner. A short while later, around 5pm, when the friends went back to reclaim the backpack, all five were arrested.

“They met their end at the Police Station or were killed in a field and the next day their bodies were dumped at different locations,” says Nelson

Silveira. “My nephew and one other were taken to the Morro da Areia area, another two were thrown out by the Mobel School (Mulenvos de Cima neighborhood) near where they lived and the fifth was killed the next day.” “They took the boys’ phones and called all their families anonymously, informing them of where the bodies were.”

Nelson Silveira reveals that his nephew had taken refuge in Kwanza Norte because he was wanted by the National Police and feared for his life. His friends had also spent some time in Kwanza Norte before returning to Luanda. Mala de Dinheiro was scheduled to return to Kwanza Norte on the day he was buried.

Silveira says another uncle is a National Police official stationed at Malanje [name and role withheld] and that he went to Luanda to investigate the circumstances and cause of his nephew’s death. “The uncle ordered an autopsy on his nephew, spoke personally to the men at the hospital and found out that the boy had been injected with car battery water.”

## **CASE No. 35: “THE KUDURO SINGER”**

**VICTIM:** Dadi Mwanza, 24, from Luanda

**DATE:** October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016

**LOCATION:** Vila da Mata neighborhood, Cazenga Municipality

### **INCIDENT:**

His brother Major Mwanza says Dadi Mwanza, a Kuduro singer, was at home all day doing laundry and preparing for his birthday party, due to take place on the street the next day. He spoke to his mother around 2pm and shortly before 6pm had a shower and went out. Major Mwanza says Dadi was executed in an alley just 50 meters from home, with one bullet to the forehead and two to the back.

His body was only removed by SIC at 7am the following day. “I went to IFA Police Station [3<sup>rd</sup> Divisional Command of the National Police in Cazenga] to testify and get a document approving the release of the body from the morgue for the funeral. But the investigator didn’t write any of the information down and he didn’t say anything. At the morgue, the SIC

team gave us permission to take the body without asking the family for any information or commenting.” “There were rumors that Pula-Pula [a notorious killer operating out of IFA Police Station] was circling the neighborhood. “

Dadi Mwanza had been arrested on four separate occasions on suspicion of criminal activity but was never charged or put on trial. On three occasions he was detained at IFA Police Station [named for a nearby factory which built East German IFA trucks]: once in 2015, when his family paid 100,000 kwanzas (US \$1,000) for his release; once in early 2016 for an equivalent sum, and again in May 2016, when he was held for a week on suspicion of robbing a cafeteria. There was no case to answer and he was released. The Kuduro singer was also detained for a brief period at Terra Vermelha station – always on suspicion of criminal activity.

Asked about Dadi Mwanza’s past, his brother admits: “There is always some crime and fighting among the neighborhood’s Kuduro community. I can’t deny that about my brother.”

## **CASE No. 36: “THE SURVIVORS AND THE TARGET LIST”**

**VICTIMS:** Samuel Jamba ‘Jambito’, 23, from Benguela (family from Huambo); Simão Celestino, 24, from Benguela

**DATE:** October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016

**LOCATION:** Mulenvos de Cima neighborhood, Viana Municipality

### **INCIDENT:**

“I was home when a young man knocked on the door and asked to see me. He told me ‘don’t be afraid, I only wanted to meet you’”, Jambito recalls.

Minutes later, two National Police officers showed up at his home with the same young man and arrested him. They took Jambito to the Ponte Partida Police Station, “where they tortured me with a machete, on my back, until I was skinned, like a chicken.” He says: “The young man I mentioned was the one who tortured me the most. They accused me of burgling the house of a neighbor, a retired colonel, and of having stolen phone credit [rechargeable phone cards], some documents and military visas.”

The following day, his friend Simão Celestino was arrested for the same “crime”, which they both claim not to have committed. They spent another two days being tortured with boards and hosepipes.

After they were released from their cell in the National Police Municipal County jail in Viana, Jambito had the courage to press charges against his torturers. “They released me without a case number, nothing. The officer who registered the complaint only said that they would punish the torturers and then I never heard anything back.” “I had never been arrested, had never had any trouble with the law,” says Jambito. “I work as a motorbike taxi driver to earn my keep.”

Jambito’s mother, backed up by other mothers in the neighborhood, gave further details of the extraordinary case. Apparently, the grounds for arrest were merely the fact that their names were included in a list drawn up by a neighbor, identified as Simão Catequele [who sells rechargeable phone cards] and his sons, in order to “clean out” potential troublemakers from the neighborhood. And, in Jambito’s case, there was an ulterior motive.

“The [National Police] officers started by asking me, as the mother, if my son was dating that girl [name left out]. They started beating him up right here at home, in front of me”, says Joaquina Nana. “I asked them why they were hitting my son. They said he was a criminal and a cannabis smoker. I told them: ‘you are the law, you’re required to explain what the person has done.’ They searched the house and couldn’t find anything”, she adds.

His mother argues that, if her son really was a thief, on that day he wouldn’t have been “having bread and *lambula* [sardines] for lunch, given to them by a neighbor because there was no food in the house. If he had money from what he had stolen, wouldn’t he be buying his lunch with it?”

After her son was released, Joaquina Nana took him to Simão Catequele’s house to show him what his accusation had caused. “Catequele only answered that it wasn’t him who beat up my son. I told him that ‘it was you who beat him up because it was you who wrote the list’”, says Joaquina Nana.

“Ti Simão [Catequele] explained to me that the Police had misunderstood, that there had been a mistake with the name on his list. I feel a great pain in my chest. I haven’t done anything”, confesses Jambito. The way in which the neighborhood became aware of this target list is explained in detail in Case number 31.

## **CASE No. 37: “A CRIME OF PASSION”**

**VICTIM:** Fabião Pedro Mandume ‘Fábio’, 27

**DATE:** September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016

**LOCATION:** Downtown Kassanje neighborhood, Viana Municipality

### **INCIDENT:**

Fábio didn’t even have a chance to recover from the scabies he had contracted at Viana Penitentiary, from where he had been released three weeks earlier after seven months in pre-trial detention. “He hardly ever left the house, because of the scabies, so Mendes came to kill him at home”, accuses Eusébio Pedro “Zeca”, the victim’s brother.

The victim’s mother, Beatriz Pedro Watele, provides the context for the first arrest. She believes her son and his killer were rivals over a woman. “Since my son hadn’t done anything, Mendes from the DNIC [SIC], from the mobile police station in downtown Kassanje, made up a crime, came to get him at home and took him to his station. The following day, he transferred him to Boa Fé Police Station.” The young man was then taken to Kapalanca Police Station, which referred him to the Viana Municipal Prison, where he served most of his pre-trial detention time.

“[After Fábio was released] Mendes came to my house at midnight, in order to kill my son. My son heard a noise in the backyard and came out of his room [separate from the main house] to see what was going on. Then we heard gunshots and my son screaming”, says Beatriz Watele.

“Bia [the mother], come quick, Mendes is trying to kill me! Bia, Mendes is killing me!’ That’s how I found my son, already on the floor, screaming by his bedroom door”, says his mother. According to his brother Zeca, who was there when it happened, Fábio was shot once in the abdomen and once in the left wrist.

“After he fired the shots, Mendes ran away. But my brother was still alive and told us it had been Mendes”, the brother reiterates.

“Everyone in the neighborhood knows that Mendes is DNIC [SIC]. He arrested many local young men and took them to the Mobile Police Station [in Downtown Kassanje]. The police knew about his operations”, Zeca confirms.



Beatriz Watele remarks that before they took her son to the Maria Pia Hospital, where he died on the operating table, “we went by the Mobile Station to report the case. The police merely took some photos of my son, they didn’t do anything else. That was the end of it”.

The family reports that, after the crime, the killer sent a text message to a mutual friend of his and Fábio’s, telling her that he had killed him. “In the morning, Massada came to my house with a friend and asked about Fábio. They were horrified when my sister confirmed the truth”, Zeca says.

## **CASE No. 38: “THE FINAL CALL”**

**VICTIM:** Bernardo Domingos Futa, 31, from Malanje

**DATE:** September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016

**LOCATION:** Salalé Square, Estalagem, Viana Municipality

### **INCIDENT:**

Mário Futa tells us that his brother Bernardo received three phone calls around 9am asking him to come to a meeting. Because of such persistence, he ended up giving in to the last call and went to the square near his house.

A neighbor who witnessed the incident says that he was immediately ambushed by several men in plain-clothes. These men (it’s not known exactly how many) had arrived together in a National Police patrol car which they had left parked a few streets away. They fired several shots into the air to scare people away and then executed Bernardo Futa right there with two shots to the abdomen and a third to the heart.

Mário Futa notes that his brother had a previous brush with the law: “My brother served eight years for petty crimes and was released in 2012. Since then he worked as a cab collector and as a motorcycle-cab driver. He was never in trouble with the law again.”

“There were raids happening around the house, where alcohol was sold. The officers were always looking for him and others who ended up running away. My brother had to leave the neighborhood for a month, in March but he returned in April”, he concludes.

## **CASE No. 39: “THE PARTY’S OVER”**

**VICTIMS:** Aspirante Silveiro Correia ‘Marcelo’, 27; Jibóia

**DATE:** September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016

**LOCATION:** Rua Direita do Sucupira, Grafanil neighborhood, Viana Municipality

### **INCIDENT:**

Marcelo was a renowned party planner. According to witnesses at the scene, on the day he was murdered a SIC group interrupted the party around 10pm, arrested him and led him away from the venue. Once out on the street, they shot him once in the forehead and once in the chest. His friend Jibóia was shot three times in the chest and once in the neck.

According to witnesses, this raid was led by officer Flávio Tavares, better known as Pula-Pula.

## **CASE No. 40: “SHOT DEAD IN BED”**

**VICTIMS:** Francisco Nadinho ‘Kobe’, 25; José Calosanse ‘Zé Badalho’, 23; Domingos Paulo, 18, all from Benguela

**DATE:** September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016

**LOCATION:** Mirú neighborhood, Viana Municipality

### **INCIDENT:**

Cousins Kobe and Zé Badalho and their friend Domingos were sleeping in a zinc-walled single-roomed shack in their uncle Miguel Canganjo’s backyard where they had been living for several months. “One of the agents stood outside my door and said that if anyone tried to leave the house, they would be killed. Me, my wife and the children just stood there quietly until they [the ops group] finished their mission”, recounts Miguel Canganjo. The clock showed 4.20am.

According to the uncle, “the agents took out one of the zinc sheets from the boys’ room, one of them walked in, fired a shot and opened the door to

let the others in". "Zé Badalho was killed in the bed where he slept, with a bullet to the head and another to the abdomen. Kobe died from two shots to the head and one to the back. He moved and they shot him in the back, right there, in bed", his uncle explains.

Their friend, Domingos Paulo, "died from two shots, one in the head and one in the chest. He got up from his bed and fell next to the door".

Minutes after the killers left, a National Police patrol car arrived at the scene of the crime. "A deputy chief officer who was in charge of the patrol walked over to me and told me to stay quiet, because the job had been done by DNIC [CIS]", reveals Miguel Canganjo. "I asked him what the reason was for this job, and to explain the murders the deputy chief officer told me straight out that my nephews were thieves and that their motorcycles were stolen."

Canganjo says this was a lie: "I helped them buy their first motorcycle. My nephews lived in Benguela and first Kobe moved here and started working as a motorcycle-cab driver. He earned enough money to go get his cousin. Their motorcycles were not stolen", the uncle reiterates.

Miguel Canganjo admits his nephews were no angels: "They got into a life of petty crime." But he emphasizes that he was the one who helped them buy their first motorcycle, out of his own pocket. He remarks that, if his nephews had committed any serious crime, they wouldn't have needed to live in a makeshift room made of zinc, with no conveniences. He also adds that none of them had a criminal record.

"Francisco had been arrested once, at the Contentores Police Station (44<sup>th</sup> Police Station, in Viana), for running over a lady who recovered fully. The police charged 15,000 kwanzas to release him and return the motorcycle. I scraped together the money, I paid, and he was released."

## **CASE No. 41: "THE KILLER NEIGHBOR"**

**VICTIM:** Alexandre Carlos 'Da Cazanga', 18, from Luanda

**DATE:** September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016

**LOCATION:** District 6, Rua 2, near the Killing Field, Viana Municipality

## INCIDENT:

“Three months earlier, my neighbor from the DNIC [SIC], ‘Ti Paulo’, came to me and told me to send my son away to the country, because he was on a kill list”, says Carlos Francisco Alexandre.

Grateful for the warning, the father sent his son to the Calulo Municipality in the province of Kwanza Sul. “But, as these kids are stubborn, he came back against my will”, he says. He started being watched by SIC agents.

“On the 6<sup>th</sup>, around 7am, my son asked his mother for 50 kwanzas and went to the grocery store to buy detergent to wash his clothes. Once there, it was chief Paulo himself who grabbed him. The boy resisted arrest, but as he (Paulo) was with a second agent, they were able to tie him up and get him on a motorcycle.” (It’s quite common, in this type of raid, for the person captured to be taken to the station and/or place of execution on a motorcycle, between two agents.)

Carlos Francisco Alexandre followed his neighbor and found his son tied up in the sub-unit [known as “das madres”] of Contentores Police Station, along with the Operation leader, his neighbor Paulo. He recalls: “Chief Paulo asked me whether I wasn’t ashamed to come to my son’s rescue after he’d told me to send him to the country. I answered that, as a father, it was my duty to enquire about my son.”

“Chief Paulo asked me why my son had come back from the country. And he told me to: ‘go get the coffin ready because we’re going to kill him today’. Then he shooed me away.”

Carlos Francisco persevered and went over to the main police station to beg for his son’s life. “The DNIC (SIC) agents told me: ‘We’re going to teach you a lesson.’ They took me to a room, picked up a machete and hit me many times on the palms of my hands with the blunt side, until my hands were raw.”

Even with his hands in that state, as soon as they let him go, the father went to get some bread to feed his son. They allowed him to hand it to him. Early in the morning of the next day, he went over to the unit to enquire about his son. While he was waiting, his son and another young man he didn’t know were taken by the agents to his street, passing near his house. They were executed a few meters away from the house, near the Killing Field.

Da Cazanga was killed with two shots to the head and a third to his right leg. It had been only six days since he’d come back from Calulo. The killers separated the two and dumped the unidentified young man’s body further down the road.

“My son was only detained for one day, the day before he was killed. He got into street fights, he liked trouble, but he was no criminal. Some of these policemen, who I know well, have serious criminals as sons and they don’t kill them, they protect them.”

## **CASE No. 42: “BICHO MAU”**

**VICTIM:** Sebastião Monteiro Viegas ‘Bicho Mau’, 25, from Luanda; Léo Baba, Toca-Lá’s brother; plus another two unidentified victims

**DATE:** September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016

**LOCATION:** Primeira dos Carneiros, District 6 (Abega), one street along from the Killing Field in Viana Municipality

### **INCIDENT:**

“At 5am, some seven National Police officers in uniform came to get me at home. Since they couldn’t find Sebas [Sebastião], they used bats to beat his youngest brother, Arnaldo Monteiro de Quintas, 15, and took him to the Contentores Police Station”, recalls Teresa Monteiro, the boys’ mother.

The officers demanded that she lead them to Sebastião’s home in the Palanca neighborhood, where he lived with his wife. “On the way there, the agents told me: ‘Mamá, get the coffin ready. Today will be the day your son dies.’ I answered: ‘Thy will be done’”, says Teresa Monteiro.

When they reached her son’s house, the agents proceeded to slap her daughter-in-law in the face, in front of their crying children aged three and five. They made her call her husband asking him to come home to attend to an emergency. Then they took his photo from the living room and went out to ambush him.

“I left my son’s house alone. Since I didn’t have enough money to return home, I went to ask some family members who lived nearby for help, and to alert them to what was about to happen”, Teresa Monteiro recalls. “When I got back home, at 7.30am, I received the news that my son had already been killed by four bullets. Two in the head, one in the chest and one in the abdomen”, she says.

“I found out that he and his friend had been caught in the FTU neighborhood, as they were stepping out of a cab on their way home. They

brought them here, about 300 meters from my home, and they shot them.” A photo of Bicho Mau lying dead, with a gun resting on his chest and his friend by his side, went viral on social media. Some of the witnesses we interviewed said that, after they executed him, one of the agents placed the gun on the victim’s chest, in order to take his photo.

The patrol car in which Teresa Monteiro was taken to her son’s house was also carrying two young men handcuffed by a single pair of handcuffs. They suffered the same fate. “Those two boys, I don’t know who they were, were also shot here in my neighborhood, on another street. I can’t recall whether it was shortly before or shortly after my son and his friend. On that same day, in this same area, the authorities killed 15 young men or more”, she adds.

Two unrelated residents corroborate Teresa Monteiro’s account of the wave of terror that has been sweeping Viana Municipality. She told us these institutional killers have a quota for targets to take down, which they show the victims’ families.

“Here in this area alone, they said they had scheduled the death of 250 young men. The big-time criminals, the ones who can afford to pay for their freedom, are roaming around. They kill the kids who steal cell phones and gas canisters and also many innocent people.”

Teresa Monteiro admits her son was a petty criminal. “As a mother, I never told my son to steal. But if he was a criminal, how can we defend him? She was forewarned. A month earlier, on the morning of August 7<sup>th</sup>, she received a visit from five or six individuals who identified themselves as officers. They told her that her son had broken into a residence that day.

“I was in my room getting dressed when they arrived, and I asked them to wait. They told me straight away: ‘You’re going to die too.’ They took my gas canister. One of them looked at my small TV set, which is very old, and said: ‘The thief’s mother has this TV set? There’s nothing worth taking here”, she recalls.

The men took Teresa Monteiro to the house that had been broken into. “They told me he had stolen two TV sets, cell phones, one gas canister and I don’t know what else. They made me ride with them in the car for an hour and then they decided to take me to Contentores Police Station, in Estalagem.”

According to Teresa Monteiro, when they got there the duty officer reprimanded the agents, reminding them that crime isn’t transferable and that they had no right to take his mother from her home. She says he led the agents into a prison cell.

“The police called my son in front of me and he confessed to the crime over the phone. Right then, the officer told me: ‘Mother, get your son’s coffin ready’”, she says.

## **CASE No. 43: “THE RACE”**

**VICTIM:** Daniel Soempia Cambalo ‘Bruno Lamba’, 18; Tomás Bonifácio ‘923’

**DATE:** September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016

**LOCATION:** District 6, Viana Municipality

### **INCIDENT:**

Two individuals were riding motorbikes near the Mamá Gorda market, looking for two thieves. One of the young men they approached to obtain information spoke to Maka Angola. The young man, who asked to remain anonymous, identified the individuals: one was a National Police officer in uniform, the other was from the Criminal Investigation Service [SIC], both allegedly stationed at the 44<sup>th</sup> Station.

“They told me they were chasing two thieves. They came together on two separate motorbikes. I know their faces well”, says the young man, who gave them directions.

“One of them [the targets] came to hide in my house. As soon as my dad saw him, he kicked him out straight away. He couldn’t even speak, he wasn’t armed, and he had nothing on him”, the witness recounts. “My dad wouldn’t have dared to kick out someone who had a weapon or who seemed threatening. Once outside, the boy was shot.”

According to activist Laurinda Gouveia, who was at the scene minutes after this happened, the two young men were cornered in a backyard surrounded by high walls, which they couldn’t jump over, and they were left at the mercy of the officers. “Their bodies were lying right next to the wall. The young man in a yellow t-shirt, identified as Bruno Lamba, was shot in the forehead, chest and right arm. The one in the blue jacket, known as Tomás 923, from the Peturbados gang, was executed with a bullet to the back of his neck.”

The bodies were left for four hours there in that backyard, which is normally used for judo practice, until they were collected by the National

Police. The young man is adamant when he says that the act was committed by police officers. “All of us here can attest to the fact that they are with the police. The one from the Public Order Police was running around holding his gun in his right hand. The one from the SIC too. We all saw them.”

“According to one of the agents we spoke to from a different unit and who followed the case, the killing was deliberate”, the young man reveals. Luciano Domingos, Daniel Soempia Cambalo’s father, had asked his son to come with him on his errands. “He said no. He said he had other plans. When I returned home, I was told about my son’s death.” “My son had never been prosecuted, he had never been involved in any criminal activity. He worked at a bakery. I knew he had some friends who were off the rails [petty criminals], but a father cannot know about and decide on his son’s friends”, he continues.

He gratefully recalls how much his son helped his family: “I’m ex-military and unemployed. My son helped to support the family with the money he earned at the bakery.” Luciano Domingos explains why he buried his son without pressing charges: “If it really was the police and the SIC who killed my son, as the witnesses say, I didn’t see the point. I left it in the hands of God and was left only with the grief.”

“The police and the SIC are not doing a good job. It would be a good job if they brought suspects to justice to be investigated first, before they kill. They should investigate the truth first, not just come out and kill”, he criticizes.

To him, “the people who support these police murders are murderers too. Article 30 of the Constitution makes the death penalty illegal. Where is the respect for human life in this country?”, he asks.

## **CASE No. 44: “THE THANKLESS MISSION”**

**VICTIM:** Ruben Fernandes Manuel ‘Nuno’, 21, from Huambo

**DATE:** August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016

**LOCATION:** Santa, Viana Municipality



## **INCIDENT:**

According to testimonies by family and friends, Nuno was wanted by agents for suspected criminal activity. At about 8pm on the day he was killed, a group of men in plain-clothes chased him until he reached a cul-de-sac, where they executed him with seven shots. Nuno was hit twice in the head, three times in the abdomen, once in the right hand and once in the left foot.

His father, also a police officer, was given the task of collecting his son's body two hours after he was shot. One of Nuno's friends, who would rather remain anonymous, says the young man had spent three months in custody at Viana County Court and been released three months earlier. He was a gang member first of the 'Criminal Família' gang and later he joined the 'Metidos'.

## **CASE No. 45: “HE HUNG OUT WITH CRIMINALS”**

**VICTIM:** Fernando Joaquim 'Micuia', 19, from Kwanza Norte

**DATE:** June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016

**LOCATION:** near the Killing Field, Mirú, Viana Municipality

## **INCIDENT:**

At 6am, several elements identified by DNIC [SIC] vests knocked on Omelina Fernandes' door, located in the Caprédió area. According to a family member, whose name has been withheld, the officers arrested her son and locked Omelina Fernandes in her bedroom when she desperately tried to defend him.

“We later went to Contentores Police Station [44<sup>th</sup> Police Station], where the police informed us that Micuia had already been shot. According to the police officer, Micuia hung out with criminals and, therefore, he was a criminal too and they all had to be killed”, the family member quotes.

The family then learned that Micuia's body, which had three bullet wounds, one in the head, was lying near the Killing Field. Along with Micuia, another three young men, whose identities are unknown, were also shot dead. Micuia's family member saw their bodies.

## **CASE No. 46: “MY UNCLE REALLY WAS A THIEF”**

**VICTIM:** Mateus André Manuel ‘Cabeça’, 27, from Malanje; three other unidentified young men

**DATE:** June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016

**LOCATION:** District 6, Killing Field, Viana Municipality

### **INCIDENT:**

“My uncle really was a thief. He had been arrested four times. He really did steal”, says Mateus Cabeça’s niece, who asked we not print her name. It was after 6am when Cabeça was found at his sister’s house in District 6, talking to two friends his family didn’t know.

“It was the DNIC (SIC) who took them away. They walked around with them and around 8am they took them to the Killing Field, where they were shot dead. Uncle Cabeça was shot twice in the head”, she says.

“The bodies were left at the scene overnight because there were no cars available to come collect the bodies. They killed many people on that day. There were around 14 people in total”, she reveals.

The niece says that Cabeça “caused the family many problems”. In an attempt to lead him away from a criminal life, they sent him to Malanje, where he spent six months. “But he wouldn’t listen to anyone’s advice.” He returned to his death.

## **CASE No. 47: “FROM CONTENTORES POLICE STATION TO THE KILLING FIELD”**

**VICTIMS:** Marcolino Hossi ‘Litana’, 22; another two unidentified young men

**DATE:** May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016

**LOCATION:** Killing Field (Campo da Escolinha), Mirú, Viana Municipality

## **INCIDENT:**

Litana, also known as 'All the Aunts', for his popularity among the mothers in his neighborhood, had a history of petty crimes, as his cousin Pedro Sabino Fito recounts.

Days before the fateful incident, Litana and some friends had robbed a neighbor, who was in the Angolan Armed Forces, and stolen his cell phone. The neighbors identified him. "They caught him, beat him up right there in the neighborhood, and they took him to Contentores Police Station [in Estalagem]. It was from that police station that they took him straight to the Killing Field", his cousin says.

Around 9am, two field agents, wearing clearly-marked vests, as well as another individual in plain-clothes, drove to the Field in a white Toyota Land Cruiser, with tinted windows and no license plate. They took three young men from inside the vehicle, including Marcolino Hossi "Litana", 26. Pedro Fito, who witnessed the shooting, recounts that the agents made the young men walk a few steps forward without looking back. "Litana refused and said they could kill him as he was, facing them", the witness remarks.

"The first one, when he tried to take a step, was shot with a bullet to his back and another to the back of his head, which went through his eye. Litana was shot in the back and the head." The third man was also murdered with a bullet to the head.

According to a witness identified by his initials, C.F., at the time of the shootings "there was a soccer match going on, with many children watching, who also witnessed the executions".

"Many [locals and passers-by] came to applaud the killings, saying 'serves them right', because the young men had been tormenting people, and 'the police were doing a good job'", says Pedro Fito. "Some people trampled on the poor boys' bodies. Others said that they [the dead] might come back to life and threw sand over them."

"My cousin might have been a criminal, but the inhumane way in which people celebrated his and the other young men's deaths is very sad", he concludes.

## **CASE No. 48: “HE JUST SAID HE LOVED MY MOTHER VERY MUCH”**

**VICTIM:** Manuel Monteiro, 37, from Uíge

**DATE:** April 2016

**LOCATION:** Belo Monte neighborhood, Viana Municipality

### **INCIDENT:**

“My father sold drugs and robbed cars”, admits Denilson Monteiro.

Manuel Monteiro was standing outside his door when, around 11pm, a Toyota HiAce minivan with tinted windows stopped in front of him. According to his son, an unspecified number of individuals got out of the vehicle and fired ten shots into his father’s chest and abdomen. “My father was very big. He was a *kaenche* [a heavyweight fighter].”

Denilson and his mother, who were in the backyard, a few steps away from the door, ran to his aid after noticing the vehicle’s strange movements, and seeing the passengers come out to approach the victim. “After the shots were fired, we went to him screaming, crying, and he was still alive. He just said he loved my mother very much and he asked her to take good care of us, their three children”, Denilson recounts.

“He was a criminal. He was arrested many times. We knew he could end up dead because of his actions. We also realized that the raid could not have been carried out by other criminals. It had to be the police killing him”, he says. The area where they live is very isolated, “like the edge of the world”, he explains. And yet, shortly after the raid, the police meat wagon was already there to collect the body. “It could only have been as a joint operation with the men who killed him, because they were the ones who knew exactly where it had happened.”

According to Denilson, the local police stations don’t own any meat wagons so these only show up in neighborhoods like Belo Monte to collect alleged criminals who have been killed.

## **CASE No. 49: AFTER THE FUNERAL, DEATH”**

**VICTIM:** Manuel Rui Luís da Silva ‘PCB’, 19, from Luanda; António Agostinho Manuel ‘Stony Latchutcho’, 20, from Uíge; ‘Da Menina’; and one unidentified individual

**DATE:** April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016

**LOCATION:** Killing Field, District 6, Viana Municipality

### **INCIDENT:**

After attending a neighbor’s funeral, the four young men stood around talking on the first street in District 6. According to PCB’s sister, Zinha, around 1pm the young men were surrounded and arrested by several men in plain-clothes, who identified themselves as agents.

She says, “They were [SIC] people, the same ones who were sweeping the neighborhood.” The boys were taken in a van to the Killing Field, a few minutes away from the place where they were arrested, where they were shot. Zinha says:

“My brother was shot five times, twice in the head.”

PCB had spent a week in jail at Contentores Police Station (near the Kikolo milling factory) the previous December on suspicion of theft. His sister says he was in high school and had managed to find a job and was due to start work in a few days, when he was killed.

Stony Latchutcho’s sister [name withheld] confirms he was shot three times, including once in the head. Latchutcho had been out of jail since January that year, after having spent six months detained at Luanda’s Central County Court. “He had no work”, his sister says. “He and his friends had stolen a gas canister. In total, Latchutcho had been arrested three times for theft.

## **CASE No. 50: “DESPERATELY SEARCHING FOR A BODY”**

**VICTIM:** Moisés Domingos Capitão ‘Oficial’, 22, from Luanda

**DATE:** April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016

**LOCATION:** Kilamba-Kiaxi

### **INCIDENT:**

‘Oficial’ returned home around 4pm after another day’s work as a tiler. He got changed and went out to play football in the street with his friends. According to his family, as night fell, he went back home, took a shower and went to bed.

“At midnight, several armed men broke down the door to the boys’ bedroom. They pulled out my brother Kotchongo, 21, and asked him if he was Oficial, to which he replied no. Oficial was sleeping very deeply and they pulled him out of bed. We, his family, saw the whole thing”, recalls Lena, the victim’s sister.

According to Lena, the kidnappers who took Oficial away – without showing an arrest warrant – had parked a Toyota Land Cruiser “with an orange stripe and tinted windows” right outside the gate to the house.

“Very early in the morning, we went to Calemba 2 Police Station. They told us that the vehicle belonged to them [the Police Station] and that the agents had taken it around 9pm the night before and hadn’t returned yet”, Lena says. According to the family, on the second day the Calemba 2 Police Station staff gave them a different version, denying any involvement. “They later told us that on the day my brother was taken there was no one on duty. On the third day, we went back there and also to the PDCI [Province Department of Criminal Investigation], and they told us that the agents weren’t working at that time of night.”

For three nightmarish weeks, the family visited police stations in Calemba, Kilamba Kiaxi, Talatona, Fubu and Kapolo, searching for an answer regarding Oficial’s whereabouts. “They would tell us that he’d been kidnapped by criminals and that the police didn’t know anything.” On the third week, the family received a phone call from a cousin who lived in the Bitá area, in Viana, telling them that Oficial’s body had been dumped in the

Kilamba woods. “We went over there and identified his body. There were no signs of gunshot wounds or beating. The kid had never been a criminal, he had never been arrested”, his sister laments.

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



THE "KILLING FIELDS"



We owe an immense debt of gratitude and extend our thanks to the victims' family members, friends, neighbors, and witnesses. This report could not have been written without their courage in making themselves available to bear witness.

We would also like to thank the Angolan businessman who selflessly and anonymously sponsored the fieldwork carried out by fifteen assistants. His generosity and kindness were also very important in supporting some of the family members and victims, such as the mother who had despaired of giving her son a decent burial because she was unable to afford a coffin.

The work of the aforementioned assistants was invaluable. Because they live locally, they know the areas where most of the killings took place, which allowed them to identify cases, locate family members, friends, neighbors and witnesses. It also fell to them to persuade people to speak out and to promote a culture of denouncing human rights violations.

For safety reasons, we have chosen not to reveal the names of these assistants, but they know how grateful we are to them for the extraordinary job they've done.

Rui Verde and Inês Hugon volunteered to offer legal advice and to copy-edit the report respectively. Thank you for this and for your friendship.

A second Angolan businessman, who prefers not to be named, provided the support for the English translation. We are grateful.

This work was carried out on a volunteer basis, without any institutional support. To my family, who suffer the consequences of my commitment to defending human rights in Angola, I thank you for your unconditional support. That has been the flame which cheers me and guides me with love – for my homeland and for my fellow Angolans.



VIANA VICTIMS'; RAMIRO ANTÓNIO MITÓ; BICHO MAU