

Minister of Justice and Human Rights  
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Ministry of Justice and Human Rights  
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Your Excellency,

Rafael Marques de Morais is a journalist and human rights defender. He is on trial after being charged with 'defamation of a public authority' and 'outrage to a sovereign body' in June 2017. The charges are in relation to an article he wrote and published on the Maka Angola website, of which he is the editor, about questionable acquisition of public land by the Angolan General Prosecutor. A conviction carries a prison sentences from one to three years.

Please drop all the charges against Rafael Marques de Morais as he has been charged solely for peacefully exercising his right to freedom of expression and freedom of the press.

Please ensure that journalists, human rights defenders and activists are no longer harassed and intimidated and the rights to freedom of association, assembly, and expression are upheld. Please take all the necessary steps to repeal the criminal defamation laws as they infringe on journalists' rights to freedom of expression.

Yours sincerely

Copy:

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