



The American Committee on Africa

198 Broadway • New York, N.Y. 10038 • (212) 962-1210

William H. Booth, *President*
Wyatt Tee Walker, *Vice President*
David Scott, *Vice President*
Jennifer Davis, *Executive Director*

March 29, 1993

DEATH IN ANGOLA

Dear Friend of ACOA,

In Angola more than 15,000 people have died because Jonas Savimbi, the leader of the South African backed UNITA party, lost an election last September. The United Nations, the U.S. government and international observers all certified that the election won by the ruling MPLA party was free and fair.

But instead of abiding by the election results Savimbi went to war.

In the capital city of Luanda hospitals were overwhelmed with casualties after UNITA launched its attack. A nurse said the situation was desperate, "There's no medicine, no doctors, there's nothing, just bodies and wounded lying on the floor."

A 49 year old mother of six described UNITA's indiscriminate killing of civilians to the London Independent saying "we are scared that UNITA will come knocking on the door at night." One morning she found two people dead on her doorstep.

This is not an isolated incident. UNITA forces have burned dozens of women alive. They have gone from house to house, killing everyone they found.

Angola is already crippled by a 16 year war Savimbi launched after Angola won its independence from Portugal. In the last six months his new offensive has uprooted three million people who the UN says are threatened with starvation.

The U.S. cannot escape its responsibility for the death and destruction in Angola. For 16 years the CIA collaborated with South Africa to arm and fund UNITA. The State Department claimed that their purpose was to force the Angolans to hold free elections.

Now the U.S. is refusing to recognize the government that won those free elections last September. Recognition by itself wouldn't stop the killing. But it would send Savimbi a clear message to stop fighting and start negotiating.



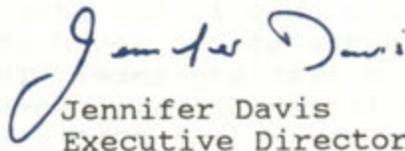
It is vitally important that President Clinton hear from concerned Americans before thousands more Angolans die. ACOA is launching an emergency drive to generate messages urging Clinton to recognize the Angolan government. We are sending the enclosed Action Alert to people from coast to coast.

We can't succeed without you. Please sign and send the enclosed post card urging President Clinton to recognize the Angolan government.

We need to act today. A child dies every two hours in Luanda's pediatric hospital because of Savimbi's war.

I hope you will make a generous contribution so that we can reach many more Americans with this urgent message. With your help we will be part of ending this terrible carnage.

For freedom,


Jennifer Davis
Executive Director

ACTION ALERT

DEMAND U.S. RECOGNIZE ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT

For many years the CIA financed a brutal war in Angola on the pretext that the Angolan government had not held internationally recognized elections. Last September in a U.N. monitored vote, the Angolan people chose to retain their current government and reject the challenge by Jonas Savimbi's UNITA party which was backed by the U.S. and South Africa.

UNITA refused to accept its defeat at the polls and started a new war with South African support. The UN reports that more than 15,000 people have lost their lives in this new war since the beginning of the year.

Meanwhile the Clinton Administration is debating whether to recognize the democratically elected Angolan government. Many in Congress are urging Clinton to recognize the Angolan government immediately. But there is strong opposition from conservatives who have long backed UNITA.

Please act today. Send President Clinton the enclosed post card urging him to recognize the Angolan government and pressure Savimbi to stop the fighting.

If we delay, more Angolans will die.

Please send additional messages to your Senators and Congressional Representative.

For more information see over or contact the American Committee on Africa, 198 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10038, (212) 962-1210.

March 29, 1993

**ANGOLAN ELECTION RESULTS THREATENED BY FORMER U.S. ALLY
President Clinton Should Recognize New Government**

The U.S. government for many years justified its support for Jonas Savimbi's UNITA movement with the demand that Angola hold internationally supervised elections. In 1991, the U.S. helped to establish the framework for U.N. supervised elections that were held last September. After an MPLA led government won, the U.S. declared the ballot free and fair. But America's former ally UNITA has started a new war and more than 15,000 people have died since the beginning of this year.

U.N. Supervised Elections

For most of the seventeen years since Angola's independence, South Africa and the United States have backed the UNITA movement's war to overthrow the ruling MPLA government. Although the Organization of African Unity, the U.N. and most of Western Europe recognized the MPLA government, the U.S. supported UNITA on the Cold War era logic that the MPLA should be overthrown because of its close ties to the Soviet Union and Cuba.

In May 1991 the Angolan government signed a peace agreement providing for a ceasefire, demilitarization of the two armies and multiparty elections under U.N. supervision. In the September 1992 balloting, the MPLA won 129 seats in the legislature to UNITA's 70. In the presidential elections on the same day, the MPLA candidate won 49.57% of the vote, less than one percentage short of the simple majority needed to avoid a runoff election. Jonas Savimbi won 40.07%. The U.N., the U.S. and most international observers certified those elections as free and fair and a runoff election was planned. Savimbi said elections would be free and fair only if he won.

UNITA Re-starts the War

Now UNITA has gone back to war. Savimbi is trying to win on the battlefield what he couldn't win at the ballot box. The MPLA led government has attended peace talks several times, but each time UNITA balks. The U.N. observer force, limited by budget restrictions, has been unable to stop the fighting. The U.N. only has a mandate until April 30.

As of early March, Savimbi controlled nearly 65% of the country and is reportedly receiving new supplies from South Africa and Zaire. The MPLA led government has called up its troops and the war is escalating.

The U.S. refusal to recognize the government that won the elections last September is fueling the war. Although U.S. recognition will not stop the war, it will send a strong signal that the elections must be respected. It could also force South Africa and Zaire to stop arms shipments.

The Clinton administration is reviewing its policy toward Angola. But the President is under pressure from conservatives not to recognize the new government. Pressure on President Clinton to recognize the U.N. certified government in Angola could make the difference in this policy debate.