Albert Einstein Institution Statement

We are concerned by the recent arrest and detention of fifteen Angolan citizens, in part for reading the book *From Dictatorship to Democracy* by Gene Sharp on the potential of nonviolent action as an alternative to violence. In a world of extreme violence, information about the substitution of nonviolent means should be widely welcomed.

The imprisonment of individuals for studying nonviolent alternatives is worrying, and we urge their unconditional release.

If Angolan President José Eduardo dos Santos really is concerned about the threat of a coup, as he stated in a recent speech, we recommend that he read our publication, *The Anti-Coup*, on how nonviolent action can deter and defeat coups d'etat.

If he read *The Anti-Coup*, President dos Santos would find that coups can be prevented through nonviolent actions such as:

- Establishing public education programs for the general citizenry on how to engage in widespread noncooperation against illegitimate rulers;

- Maintaining a strong independent press able to resist censorship and control by illegitimate rulers; and

- Encouraging the development of a strong civil society and independent institutions able to resist illegitimate rulers.

The full text of *The Anti-Coup* can be downloaded on our website at [http://bit.ly/1LQvOQr](http://bit.ly/1LQvOQr). We also provide printed copies of our educational resources upon request.

We hope the study of nonviolent alternatives to violence will be embraced by all societies, and we urge governments not to persecute their citizens for accessing such knowledge.

Gene Sharp  
Senior Scholar

Jamila Raqib  
Executive Director