

# ANGOLA FREEDOM SONGS

Recorded by the UPA fighters in Angola Folkways Records FD 5442





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### BACKGROUND OF THE ANGOIAN PROBLEM

One year ago, on March 1961, a Revolution broke out in Angola, a western Africa territory, which has been under the Portuguese ruler for five hundred years. From that Revolution has resulted at least the killing of 1500 people on the Portuguese side, while on the African side the killings have amounted 50 thousand people. Many African villages have been completely destroyed by the Portuguese bombs, and more than 150 thousand people fled to the Congo where they are living now.

Short after the revolt of the Africans in March 1961 the central Government of Lisbon sent to Angola more than 50 thousand soldiers armed with modern and deadly weapons, bombs, tanks and so on, to crush the revolt. Nevertheless, the struggle is going on until this time, and will continue without compromise. The nationalists, including men, women and children are not and will not be ready to retreat until the final victory.

I am sure many of you may wonder why the Africans had to revolt. I should say this is the 20th century in which both men, women and their children have to unite in order to end the exploitation of their lives and to have a full share in their own destiny. In other words the whole situation is on political, economical, social and religious exploitation, to which the Africans decided to put an end.

Peace is a function of a good society in which all components groups of people enjoy justice, share in mutuality of respect, participate in the values of economic and social progress and move toward political maturity. This ideal cannot be reached so long as the system of colonial overlordship keeps the map spotted with blighted areas, inhabited by people who are denied both the advantages and responsibilities of full citizenship in the human commonwealth.

During five hundred years under the Portuguese colonizers the Africans have had the greatest resentments caused by the expropriation of land particularly in the coffee bearing regions, in the three districts where the revolt was more severe. Traditional African rights were not respected. The Portuguese became the true masters of the land and all its richness, while the Africans became simple miserable vagabonds, under some colonialist planters. Initiatives which will enable Africans to make money are not permitted them by the authorities, while the white settlers are being supported by the Government in order to exploit the African people. Those who work in coffee plantations and in other industries are paid starvation wage and they are forced to pay high taxes imposed upon them by the Portuguese Government.

The Portuguese Colonial Policy has divided the Africans into two classes namely: "Assimilados" and "Indigenas". Assimilados are those who satisfied

the requirements of the Portuguese law and, consequently have obtained the citizenship. In theory those have some rights, but their citizenship is conditional one, and it can be lost by any misdeed. Besides, the Portuguese make it very difficult to obtain such "Assimilation"; so, only 1% of the population is classified "Assimilados" during five hundred years of the so called "Portuguese Christian Civilization!" 99% of the population belong to the class called "Indigenas" because they haven't achieved the Assimilation. They live in worse conditions than the slaves did in old times. They are denied any kind of rights: their children cannot attend public schools; no medical assistance is available to them; no representation for them in any of the Government organs; there is no court of justice for them in the inter country; there are thousands of black people who may not be able to see the inside of a school, who are kept for the purpose of Forced Labor in the white settlers farming plantations and fishing industries.

Forced Labor the blood relation of slavery is a normal institution in the twentieth century in our country. The system has been institutionalized by the colonial administrators as part of plan for extermination of Africans.

In amplification, you must know that the African worker is obliged to abandon everything: his home, his land for the accomplishment of work for a white master.

For 12 or 18 months this unhappy deportee is a sort of beast of field who may be turned out at any time of the work. He is a deportee in sense that the Portuguese authorities make sure every person selected for forced labor is sent to an out-laying part of his region far from home. Upon his return moneyless and exhausted, he all too often finds his family in pitiable state.

Women and children are also the victim of forced Labor. They are responsible for the keeping the roads in condition, and also for farming in the Farms of the Government State. These works are not paid, and the worker is responsible for his food and tools during the term of work.

The other inhuman conditions which the African receives from the Portuguese authorities are the corporal punishments, torture and lynching. The Portuguese are engaged to perform all savage activities in order to harm innocent women and children. Mostly the so-called "Palmatoria" is used to harm whoever is claimed to have committed a crime.

Right through the world we are appealing to all our friends and the peace loving people to assist us in all our efforts to bring about a climate of peace and security in that unfortunate country of ours.

SIDE I, Band 1:

Kumpwanza! kumpwanza

Band 2:

Nge kwengelanuy se a tomri kwikila  
Wana U.P.A. se be kangola

REFRAIN:

Engwe, Engwe, Engwe  
ke nutini mputiki ko  
Zulu ye ntoto se unikuka  
Wana UPA se be kangola  
kenutini mputiki ko  
Zulu ye nto se unikuka  
Wana UPA se be kangola

Wge sengunanga U.P.A. se torni  
kwikila e mfumu  
Wana UPA se be kangola



Yeno matakao ye zindumba se nu tomri  
kvikela emfumi  
E kimpuanza se ki bakama

You who did not believe U.P.A.  
Believe him now (twice)  
U.P.A.'s sons are walking

CHORUS:

Oh mother, oh mother, oh mother!  
Don't run away Portuguese  
Heaven and earth are going to tremble  
U.P.A.'s sons are walking  
Don't run away Portuguese  
Heaven and earth are going to tremble.

Band 3:

Wau Lwauluka Ywayiza wam  
E Angola muna moko ma  
Mindete twawan'e Angola  
kinga ya ba ndolnbe  
Holden wa yiza kutwan'e kiese  
Mputuki wenda kwaku kume  
wa tuka

When we were born  
We found Angola under Portuguese rule  
We know now it belongs to us  
Holden must bring us joy  
Portuguese go where you came from! (twice)  
Holden our father come on! (twice)  
Instrument

Band 4:

Emputuki yaye se wendi kwaku  
UPA se wizi kwaku  
Oye no ku mputu e Angola etinenu  
Emputuki etc.  
UPA se wizi kwaku

Portuguese, go away!  
U.P.A. come on! (twice)  
Do you think Angola is your refuge?  
Portuguese go away now!  
U.P.A. come on....

Band 5:

Tata UPA ka fwidi ko  
Kuma mputu ka yenda kumpwamza  
ka yenda nwanina  
Tata UPA ka fwidi ko  
Tata J.U.P.A. etc.  
Nga O President wa fwidi kola

DO YOU KNOW THE CHRIST'S NAME?

The world is trembling  
The world is going to tremble  
Do you know the Christ's name?  
Is Jesus dead?  
Jesus is not dead  
One of his eyes is shut,  
Another one is open  
Do you know the Christ's name?  
Christ is not dead  
He slept during two days  
And the third day he awoke  
Do you know U.P.A. our father?  
Is U.P.A. dead?  
U.P.A. our father is not dead  
He went to U.N. for our freedom  
U.P.A. our father is not dead  
Is J.U.P.A. our brother dead?  
J.U.P.A. our brother is not dead.  
Is our President dead?  
Our President is not dead.

Band 6:

Omutuki wakanga mene  
wa kangamene

Omutuki wakangamene  
Owau kavikula ka uripa kwanga woko?

Viva UPA Viva UPA

Portuguese are arrested  
They arrested...  
When they were informing by U.P.A. did they not hear?  
Long live U.P.A. long live U.P.A.!

Band 7:

Omutuki omuntu osundidi o bi  
Owau ketu yala diaka ko  
AH AH UPA

ke tu yala diaka ko  
Twala yala ktama a ntanu a pwu  
Owau ketu yalwa diaka ko

Portuguese are the worst people  
Now we do not want any more to be governed...

CHORUS:

Ah! ah...U.P.A. (twice)  
We do not want any more to be governed...

Band 8:

Kana hkele tu soungwa ketumoni  
wenga ko  
Wana UPA se be kangela  
Ka dionya be tuka ke nu moni  
wonga ko  
Wana UPA se be kangela  
Engwe, Engwe, Engwe  
ke nutini mputuki ko  
tonto se yi zakanua  
Wana UPA se be kangalo

DON'T BE AFRAID

Even if we are shown guns don't be afraid  
U.P.A.'s sons are walking;  
Even we are shown spears don't be afraid  
U.P.A.'s sons are walking

CHORUS:

Mother! mother! mother!...  
Don't run away Portuguese  
The earth is going to tremble  
U.P.A.'s sons are walking

Band 9:

Se tu nwan, se tu nwana  
Se tu nwana ya mu fwa  
A landi a Yisu nwiza, nwiza  
se nu tomi kiatoma.  
Empasi zame zaluta  
Nuna wan twa kalama

Se tu nwan, se tu nwana etc.

A mekera mwamu (nuradu)  
ke nu mom nkenida ko  
Tuenda Tuenda kako nswalu  
ka numoni nkunda ko  
Tuenda etc.  
(kana kakomu nelezo)  
Embeni a nganga u tu kwene  
ke tu zowalalako  
E nkeka hke ka wau ikwene  
Enza yai tu binga yo

We are going to fight (twice)  
We are going to fight till our death  
Christians, come on! come on!  
Get ready now!  
For our suffering surpassed  
Because of our malfactors

CHORUS:

We are going to fight (twice)  
Till our death.  
Soldiers let us go  
Don't be sad



Even we are importuned by a crafty devil  
Don't be shy  
As the situation is now serious  
We have to win

Band 10:

Wimba yeto twidi yo  
Wiza twameseso wete muna  
watu mwenol, watu uwuka kolo  
Sula kiampwena kistusimba  
En vul zi se wizi finanama

Mauingi tulaokukile mioyo  
e mouluzi se wizi finanama

The country belongs to us  
Come and enjoy yourself  
Like you are suffering  
You were far from us for a long time  
We are governed by a devil  
Christ come now near me (twice)  
We want many things (twice)  
Christ come now near me

Band 11:

E musu Angolu o vava  
E kimpwanza, wzilar UPA  
Ewanga yoko  
mbila mbila e kundil  
embila UPA kwanga yoko

Angolan who want freedom,  
What are you waiting for  
To follow U.P.A.?

CHORUS:

The call, the call, fellow  
Do you not hear the call of U.P.A.?  
(They vaunt their leaders by naming them)

Band 12:

Rallying cry

SIDE II, Band 1:

Bugle Call

Band 1:

Quero, quero, quero ser soldado  
Quer ser soldado, ia ia  
quer ser soldado, ia ia  
Aprendi a marchar  
Aprendi a lular

I want to be a soldier (twice)  
I want to be a soldier....  
In order to learn how to walk  
In order to learn how to fight.  
Freedom! Freedom!

Band 3:

Omvuluzi a nza wizidi konkotela  
Muma mwelo a nzo,  
O mu mwelo a nzo se kenowau  
Onkamgu Angola bozolele tu yambula o makasi  
Tuala nwawutio mwelazi

World's Saviour is knocking at the door  
He is now in front of your door  
Angolan people want to follow Christ (twice)

SIDE II, Band 4:

EYE WITNESS ACCOUNT

...Fifteen minutes after the recording that was just made, we had just left the town - we were within about half a mile - when two Portuguese planes attacked and began to bomb the village. If there had been more oranges that they had given us, we might

not have made it. We are not trying to make as fast a pace as we can away from the village. The way it happened was: we first heard the sounds of aeroplanes and we thought we also heard camions along the road; that would be armed troupe transports of Portuguese soldiers.

We leaped off the road into the brush. Everybody got scratched (click - equipment turned off) We are trying to cross the bridge now. (click - equipment turned off) One single log going across about twenty feet. (click - equipment turned off) Just made it across the bridge.

We are all exhausted. Everybody is carrying heavy packs. We have been running along the road, jumping into the bush whenever the aeroplanes came close.

A certain amount of confusion at first, because the sound of the aeroplanes was very much like the sound of trucks on the road. And they usually travel with machine guns mounted on top and sometimes travel in packs with the aeroplanes, so when we heard the sound of the first aeroplanes and the sound of the bombs falling, everybody scattered off the road into the tall elephant grass; it grows about 12 to 15 feet high. It is very thick and coarse and we crashed through it. Everybody getting out as he went along.

First we rested in the grass about twenty-five feet from the road -- the sounds became louder and our leader was never sure that camions were coming up the road. It seemed important to make some distance away from it because the practice is to throw bombs and hand grenades from the cars and we were within the range. So up we went further into the bush.

We ran I guess about fifty yards and lay in the grass. Hearing a sound - it was that of the dogs -- three dogs had followed us from the village who refused to leave us and they were on the road crying the cry of lost dogs. They were a give-away of our position. It was about this time that we realized that there were no camions around at the moment but that the sounds were strictly those of aeroplanes and they were dropping bombs on the very village we had just been at. We hoped that the brave young people we had just seen had escaped the bombs.  
(click - equipment turned off)

Trying to record this as I walk along carrying my camera pack. There was no time to get any pictures as we were all running as fast as we could. It must have seemed ludicrous if one could have been dispassionate enough, because we are quite a caravan.

One chap was carrying a goat over his shoulder. Our captain is carrying two chickens in one hand. We were all just loaded down with oranges and tangerines; because we had been marching all day and we were very hot and tired when we came to the village. We had been resting there for about half an hour taking pictures of the training of the soldiers and recording them while they sang some of their songs - they were very proud, very brave, very eager for battle with the Portuguese. We are hoping at this moment they still have the same spirit and are still alive. We must have heard about fifteen or twenty bombs dropped. The village is on the crest of a hill. If we had arrived fifteen minutes later we would have been in that group. With all of our equipment and Charlie and I being a lot slower than the Angolese in moving into the brush, I don't know what would have happened.

I, myself, couldn't see the planes, being near-sighted, and I did not have my glasses on as we went tearing through the brush. Charlie could see two of them. They were flying - they passed us very low, over the village. Charlie being an ex-army aviator has a pretty good sense of aeroplanes and what they are up to. He could see that they were flying at about 200 feet, fast and low, over the village where they would drop their bombs. The bombs made quite a thump. I don't know what size they were. I could not see the signs of the explosions from where we were. We were low down and the village was high up on the crest of a hill. We could see the outside of the village in silhouette. The bombing must have been taking place in either the center of the village or towards the other side. We lay in the grass for about ten or fifteen minutes. We were all scattered around and we..."



For Additional Information About

## FOLKWAYS RELEASES

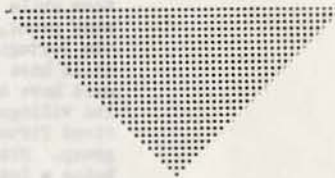
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# Folkways Records and Service Corp.

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SIDE ONE:  
 Band 1: Kumpwazai  
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 Band 3: When We were born  
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 Band 5: Do you know Christ's name?  
 Band 6: Portuguese are arrested  
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 Band 9: We are going to fight  
 Band 10: The country belongs to us  
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 Band 12: Rallying cry

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SIDE TWO:  
 Band 1: Bugle alarm call  
 Band 2: I want to be a soldier  
 Band 3: World's Saviour is knocking  
 b) soldier drills  
 Band 4: Eye witness account

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DESCRIPTIVE NOTES ARE INSIDE POCKET

COVER DESIGN BY RONALD CLYNE