

ANGOLA

Capital Luanda

Population 18.5 million

Literacy Rate 67.4 percent

Infant Mortality Rate 175.9 per 1,000 live deaths¹

Life Expectancy 47 years old²

Total Refugees 141,021

Total Asylum Seekers 699³

Refugees in South Africa 5,764⁴

Percent of People Living under the Poverty Line 40.5 percent⁵

GDP per Capita \$1,942⁶

HIV/AIDs Rate 2.0 percent

Despite a 27-year-long civil war, Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos has been in power since 1975.⁷ In 2008, Santos' party, the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola won a landslide parliamentary election and in January 2010, Parliament approved a new constitution with more protection for human rights.⁸ Presidential elections were scheduled for 2009 but were delayed indefinitely and following the example of Tunisians and Egyptians, Angolan activists have planned protests against Santos's 33-year-long regime. Human Rights Watch reported that the government threatened to punish anyone inciting or participating in protests.⁹

The Angolan government is also alleged to have committed human rights abuses in the Cabinda province, a small piece of land cut off from the rest of Angola by the Democratic Republic of Congo; citizens of Cabinda claim they were never consulted about joining Angola.¹⁰ Yet, because of its vast oil resources, the Angolan government has responded with force. Basic freedoms such as expression, assembly and association have also been severely restricted by the Angolan government.¹¹

Despite the country's oil wealth, much of the population lives in utter poverty. Half the population remains unemployed and malnourishment is an everyday reality for many Angolan children. In addition, landmines and poor road conditions prove to have isolated rural villages, which compromises aid groups' efforts to deliver food aid.¹²

¹ World Fact Book: Angola, CIA. 2011.

² World Development Indicators: Angola, World Bank. 2010.

³ 2010 Statistical Snapshot: Angola, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. 2010. Data reflects total refugees and asylum seekers as of January 2010.

⁴ 2005 Statistical Yearbook: South Africa, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. 2007.

⁵ World Fact Book: Angola, CIA. 2011

⁶ 2009 Indicators on Income and Economic Activity, United Nations Statistics Division. 2010. Data is based off internationally recognized poverty line of \$1.25 a day.

⁷ 2009 Human Rights Report: Angola, U.S. Department of State. 2009.

⁸ World Report: Angola, Human Rights Watch. 2011.

⁹ "Angola Stifling Democracy Protests." Reuters. 10 March 2011. Web.

¹⁰ "Q & A: Cabinda Conflict." BBC News. 21 January 2010. Web.

¹¹ World Report: Angola, Human Rights Watch. 2011.

¹² Country Profiles: Angola, BBC News. 2011.