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#### WAR AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN ANGOLA

Three decades of internal war have devastated the people and economy of Angola. The fratricidal, protracted nature of that war has brutalized its protagonists. Reports of new and continuing violations of human rights in the conflict should come as no surprise. History suggests that internal insurgency and counterinsurgency that endure over long periods of time tend to degenerate into especially violent, dehumanizing warfare. Together, rulers and rebels become the victims of a degenerative culture of violence. The Philippines, Uruguay, El Salvador and Mozambique are among recent examples of this process that immediately come to mind. In 1975, following thirteen years of anticolonial insurgency, Angola fell victim to the horrendous destruction of externally fueled civil war. Fifteen years later, that war continues unresolved by the international accord that has committed Cuba and South Africa to military withdrawal from Angola and Namibia, respectively.

In the period immediately after assuming power in 1975 with the assistance of Cuban and Soviet intervention, leaders of the nationalist People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola, or MPLA, acted with the early zealotry and intolerance characteristic of revolutionaries heady with newly won authority. It banned and jailed political opposition, curtailed religious freedom, barred independent trade unions, declared itself a Marxist-Leninist party and established centralized political control over the press and economy. The result was economic ruin, except for an enclave economy of largely foreign-run oil production along the country's north coast. Exploiting popular grievances and putting to good use material, logistical and instructional assistance from South African forces in Namibia, a regrouped and reinvigorated competing movement, the Union for the Total