

## **Angola- Cabinda attack on Togo team**

**ACTSA**

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The attack on the Togo football team in Cabinda was wrong and sad. The attack which left three dead, several injured and has led to the withdrawal of the Togo team will put the spotlight on the situation in Cabinda but the methods used will not increase support for the separatist case across Africa.

Cabinda is a province of Angola situated outside its borders, separated by a strip of territory belonging to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). A group called FLEC (Front for the Liberation of the Enclave of Cabinda) has long sought independence from Angola. Their case has never been recognised by the African Union, although it is claimed that many Cabindans do not see themselves as Angolan. However Angolans point out that most Cabindans share a similar ethnic root and language as the Bakongo group of northern Angola (and parts of DRC). It is estimated that 60% of Angola's oil reserves are in deep fields off shore from Cabinda.

The African Cup of Nations will go ahead and it is possible that Togo will seek to rejoin the competition. While some commentators will use this attack to talk of an increased terrorist threat to the 2010 World Cup in South Africa, there is no link. The 2010 World Cup is a very high profile international event, but there is no evidence that those widely perceived to have carried out the attack in Cabinda have any wish or capacity to carry out attacks other than in Cabinda or other parts of Angola. Johannesburg is nearly four hours by air from Angola's capital Luanda.

## **Angola – African Cup of Nations**

**ACTSA**

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**The African Cup of Nations** football tournament takes place in Angola from 10 to 31 January 2010.

Angola which is dealing with the legacy of a long and bloody civil war which ended in 2002 and followed a war for liberation from Portugal is hosting the tournament for the first time and it is the largest such event Angola has hosted. Angola is arguably the southern Africa country with the greatest potential given its level of resources. Its challenge is overcoming the destruction of the past and building a future so that all its citizens benefit from its resources.

16 teams have qualified for the final stages of the Africa Cup of Nations. In addition to Angola as hosts 3 other teams from southern Africa are participating, Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia. South Africa the hosts of the 2010 World Cup did not qualify.

The group stages take place 10 to 21/1/10; the Quarter Finals 24 and 25/1/10; the Semi Finals 28/1/10 and Final 31/10. Matches will be played in Luanda, Benguela, Lubango and Cabinda.