

## Lourenço da Silva Mendonça and the Black Atlantic Abolitionist Movement in the Seventeenth Century

This groundbreaking study tells the story of the highly organised, international legal court case for the abolition of slavery spearheaded by Prince Lourenço da Silva Mendonça in the seventeenth century. The case, presented before the Vatican, called for the freedom of all enslaved people and other oppressed groups. This included New Christians (Jews converted to Christianity) and Indigenous Americans in the Atlantic World, and Black Christians from confraternities in Angola, Brazil, Portugal and Spain. Abolition debate is generally believed to have been dominated by white Europeans in the eighteenth century. By centring African agency, José Lingna Nafafé offers a new perspective on the abolition movement, showing, for the first time, how the legal debate was begun not by Europeans, but by Africans. In the first book of its kind, Lingna Nafafé underscores the exceptionally complex nature of the African liberation struggle, and demystifies the common knowledge and accepted wisdom surrounding African slavery.

José Lingna Nafafé is a senior lecturer in Portuguese and Lusophone Studies at the University of Bristol.

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in the Seventeenth Century

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JOSÉ LINGNA NAFAFÉ

*University of Bristol*



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## Contents

<i>List of Figures</i>	<i>page</i> viii
<i>List of Tables</i>	xi
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	xii
Introduction	I
0.1 The Portuguese Empire Operation in Angola: Kings, Governors, Councils and Local Rulers	II
0.2 Studies and Sources for Mendonça's Work and Historical Context	23
0.3 Methodology and Use of Sources	48
0.4 Chapter Breakdown	51
I. The Municipal Council of Luanda and the Politics of the Portuguese Governors in Angola	57
1.1 The Structure of the Luanda City Council	76
1.2 Correia de Sousa, the Treachery and Seizing of Kazanze People, a Vassal of Kongo	81
1.3 Protests against Correia de Sousa's Actions and the Illegal Sending of Kazanze People to Brazil	93
1.4 Correia de Sousa's Unjust War against Bumbi, Another Vassal of Kongo	100
1.5 Antonio Bezerra Fajardo's Investigation into Portuguese Crime in Angola and Kongo	104
1.6 Correia de Sousa's Unrest in the City of Luanda	114
1.7 The Feud between Correia de Sousa and Álvares	116
1.8 Kongolese Captives Return from Brazil (1623–1627)	129
1.9 Concluding Remarks	135

2.	Ndongo's Political and Cultural Environment: Alliance, Internal Struggle, Puppeteering and Decline	138
2.1	Ndongo's Political, Social and Cultural Structures	147
2.2	The Term 'Slave' in Ndongo Society	153
2.3	King Philipe Hari I of Pungo-Andongo (1626–1664)	159
2.4	Election of Philipe Hari I as Puppet King of Portugal	163
2.5	The Introduction of <i>Baculamento</i> as a Tax System by Governor Fernão de Sousa	169
2.6	Ngola João Hari II, King of Pungo-Andongo (1624–1671)	176
2.7	Francisco de Távora 'Cajanda': Portuguese governor of Luanda (1669–1676)	178
2.8	João Hari II's Claim of Independence from Portugal and the Destruction of Pungo-Andongo	181
2.9	Concluding Remarks	192
3.	The Journey of Mendonça: The Princes of Pungo-Andongo in Brazil	193
3.1	The House of Ndongo: João Hari II and Diogo, the First Generation of Alliance Breakers	200
3.2	The House of Pungo-Andongo's Role and Former Loyalty to Portugal	207
3.3	The Sending of the Ndongo Royals to Portugal and Brazil as Prisoners of War and Sá's Plans for Angola	209
3.4	The Royals' Experiences and Network in Brazil	212
3.5	The Royals' Experiences, the Sugar Plantation and Antonil's Whistleblowing Work on the Treatment of the Enslaved Africans in Bahia	222
3.6	The Quilombo dos Palmares and its Alliance with the Indigenous People	239
3.7	The Quilombo dos Palmares, Cristovão de Burgos and the Royals of Ndongo	256
3.8	The Quilombo dos Palmares and Father António Vieira	260
3.9	Concluding Remarks	270
4.	Mendonça's Journey to Portugal and Spain, and the Network of the Hebrew Nation and Indigenous Americans	275
4.1	The Ndongo Royals: From Brazil to Portugal and their Distribution to Different Monasteries	280
4.2	Lourenço da Silva Mendonça in Vilar de Frades, Braga, c.1673–1677	296
4.3	Mendonça and the Confraternity of Our Lady of Rosary of Black Men in Portugal	300

<i>Contents</i>		vii
4.4	Mendonça's Network with New Christians in Portugal and the Indigenous Peruvians in Toledo, 1674–1681	312
4.5	Concluding Remarks	320
5.	Mendonça's Discourse in the Vatican: Liberation as a Wider Atlantic Question	323
5.1	African Voices of Protest Before Mendonça's Discourse in the Vatican	331
5.2	Mendonça's Criminal Court Case Presentation in 1684	345
5.3	Reactions to Mendonça's Court Case	353
5.4	Mendonça on Natural, Human, Divine and Civil Laws in His Closing Statement in 1668	367
5.5	Mendonça's Argument in His Court Case in 1684 and in His Closing Statement in 1686	371
5.6	Concluding Remarks	382
6.	Mendonça's Quest for Abolition and the Tussle between the Portuguese Overseas Council and the House of Ndongo	384
6.1	The Portuguese Overseas Council and the House of Ndongo	386
6.2	The Portuguese Crown and Mendonça's Impact at the Vatican	392
6.3	Mendonça's Tussle with the Portuguese Overseas Council	402
6.4	Concluding Remarks	408
	Conclusion	414
	<i>Bibliography</i>	431
	<i>Index</i>	461

## Figures

1	APF, SOCG, vol. 495a, fl. 58. Photograph taken by the author.	<i>page</i> 5
2	Lourenço da Silva Mendonça's family tree, part 1. By the author, based on manuscripts.	17
3	Lourenço da Silva Mendonça's family tree, part 2. By the author, based on manuscripts.	18
4	Mendonça's presentation of the 'complaints' and 'appeals' of the various confraternities he represented to the Vatican court. SOCG, vol. 495a, folio, 393.	45
5	Intersection of power between the Crown, the Portuguese Overseas Council and the Municipal Council of Luanda. By the author.	79
6	Map dated 1623 of the seige of Kazanze. Biblioteca da Ajuda, Lisbon, Portugal, [BAL], cartografia, MS. [Topografia (...) Provincia da Quissama, Angola, CA 1622, ARM, met. X 51-IX-20, fl. 2.]. Photograph by the author.	88
7	Map of Luanda, Angola, in the seventeenth century. Biblioteca da Ajuda, Lisbon, Portugal. [BAL], cartografia, MS. A descrição da barra do reino de Angola, 51-IX-21 (fl. 2.), Armário Met.X. Photograph by the author.	117
8	Map of Kongo, Angola and Benguela. Jacques Nicolas Bellin, 1747, Biblioteca Digital Luso-Brasileira ( <a href="http://bdlb.bn.gov.br/acervo/handle/20.500.12156.3/14333">http://bdlb.bn.gov.br/acervo/handle/20.500.12156.3/14333</a> ).	146
9	Ndongo's (Angola's) political structure, in the fourteenth to the seventeenth centuries. By the author, based on manuscripts and available literature.	150



*List of Figures*

ix

- |    |   |     |
|----|---|-----|
| 10 | Ndongo's (Angola's) social structure in the fourteenth to the seventeenth centuries. By the author based on manuscripts and available literature.   | 152 |
| 11 | Seh Dong-Hong-Beh, a female soldier from Dahomey. Forbes, 1851.   | 191 |
| 12 | Salvador Correia de Sá e Benavides (1648–1651). Museu de História Militar, Luanda, Angola. Photograph by the author.  | 203 |
| 13 | Branding symbols used to mark the forehead or the side of the face or arm, so that people knew who a slave belonged to. Livro de Banguê, Arquivo Santa Casa, Salvador. Photograph by the author.                          | 228 |
| 14 | View of St. Salvador. Artist unknown, Museu de Arte da Bahia (MAB), Salvador. Indigenous people are depicted in the foreground, roasting the limbs of their enemies before eating their flesh. Photograph by the author.  | 235 |
| 15 | Map indicating <i>engenhos</i> in seventeenth-century Bahia. <i>Atlas Universal</i> , João Teixeira Albernaz (1640).  | 236 |
| 16 | Map of Palmares, in the south of the Captaincy of Pernambuco, by Barleus (1647). There are no contemporary paintings of Palmares and Barleus's work is perhaps the only one available that shows Palmares. Public domain. | 242 |
| 17 | Graph illustrating the arrival of the four groups of royals in Portugal. By the author, based on manuscripts.   | 281 |
| 18 | Francisco Gonçalves Ferráz's letter, Arquivo Público de Salvador, Bahia. In the letter he talks about six slaves, then corrects himself by saying he had received six princes. Photograph by the author.                  | 290 |
| 19 | Igreja e Mosteiro de Vilar de Frades/Mosteiro de São Salvador, where Lourenço da Silva Mendonça studied for three to four years. Public domain.   | 297 |
| 20 | Pope Gregory XII, without papal hat. Vilar de Frades Chapel, Braga, Portugal. Photograph by the author.   | 298 |
| 21 | Pope Gregory XII, with papal hat. Vilar de Frades Chapel, Braga, Portugal. Photograph by the author.  | 299 |
| 22 | <i>Chafariz d'el Rey em Lisboa</i> . Artist unknown, 1570–1580. Interracial depiction of the city of Lisbon. Public domain.   | 304 |
| 23 | Cover of the Confraternity's <i>compromisso</i> (constitution) of Our Lady of Rosary of Black Men. Biblioteca Nacional de Portugal. Photograph by the author.   | 305 |
| 24 | Garcia II, king of Kongo/Nkanga a Lukeni, Albert Eckhout, 1641. Public domain.  | 340 |
| 25 | Mendonça's criminal court case and documents classification A, B, C. By the author.   | 349 |

*List of Figures*

- |    |  |     |
|----|--|-----|
| 26 | Activism of ‘men’, ‘women’ and ‘youth’ from confraternities in Brazil, Portugal and Spain. By the author.  | 352 |
| 27 | Coat of arms of Propaganda Fide surrounded by the text <i>Morir Es Lo Mas Cierto</i> , drawn by Gaspar da Costa de Mesquita in his recommendation letter. Image created by the author. | 374 |
| 28 | Original coat of arms of Propaganda Fide surrounded by the text <i>Morir Es Lo Mas Cierto</i> . Image created by the author.   | 375 |
| 29 | Signature and Propaganda Fide coat of arms with text <i>Morir Es Lo Mas Cierto</i> on the recommendation letter by Gaspar da Costa de Mesquita. Photograph by the author.              | 376 |
| 30 | Last Judgement of Hunefer with scales of justice, Book of the Dead, c. 1275 BCE, papyrus, Thebes, Egypt (British Museum). Public domain.   | 381 |

## Tables

1	The system of Mendonça's court case documents, as filed in the Vatican. Photograph by the author	<i>page 45</i>
2	Wealth of Gaspar Álvares, Portuguese trader and resident of Angola in the seventeenth century, based on his correspondence and will. By the author	119
3	Number of houses ( <i>fogos</i> ) in each of the parishes ( <i>freguesias</i> ) and how many people ( <i>almas</i> ) lived in each parish in the city of Salvador in the mid-eighteenth century. By the author, based on manuscripts	217
4	Number of sugar-cane mills in Bahia from the sixteenth to the nineteenth centuries. By the author, based on Berenstein de Azevedo (2009)	219
5	The 129 farms in Canindê and Peauhy, Palmares. By the author, based on 'Documento n. 65'	249
6	Unconquered Tapuyas who were at war with New Parish of N. S. da Victoria, Palmares. By the author, based on 'Documento n. 65'	254
7	Conquered Indigenous people in Bahia, Brazil, in their respective villages and the missionary societies that set them up. By the author, based on based on 'Documento n. 65'	264
8	Distribution of the Ndongo royals to different monasteries. By the author, based on 'Carta de António da Costa de Sousa a Manuel Barreto de S. Paio'	295

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xiii

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xv

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