

A faded, grayscale portrait of José Afonso, a man with glasses and a beard, looking slightly to the right. The image is the background of the slide.

José Afonso dos Santos

“Zeca Afonso”

José Afonso also known as “Zeca Afonso” was born in Aveiro, Portugal. He became famous in Portugal due to the role of his music in the resistance against the dictatorial regime of Oliveira Salazar.



"Grândola, Vila Morena" is the name of Zeca's most famous song and it was used as a code by the Movement of Armed Forces, the organization responsible for the revolution. The song is about fraternity among people of Grândola, a town in Portugal.



Lyrics

Portuguese:

“Grândola, vila morena
Terra da fraternidade
O povo é quem mais ordena
Dentro de ti, ó cidade
Dentro de ti, ó cidade
O povo é quem mais ordena
Terra da fraternidade Grândola,
vila morena
Em cada esquina um amigo
Em cada rosto igualdade
Grândola, vila morena
Terra da fraternidade (...)”

English translation:

“Grândola, swarthy town
Land of brotherhood
'Tis the people who command the most
Inside of you, o city
Inside of you, o city
'Tis the people who command the most
Land of brotherhood
Grândola, swarthy town
On every corner, a friend
In every face, equality
Grândola, swarthy town
Land of brotherhood (...)”



After the revolution Zeca continued singing and recorded several songs. He died in 1987 victim of sclerosis. He is now remembered by portuguese as not only a singer but as a poet too.

