

## Zeca Afonso

**José Manuel Cerqueira Afonso dos Santos**, known as **José Afonso**, **Zeca Afonso** or just **Zeca** (2 August 1929 – 23 February 1987) is among the most influential folk and political musicians in Portuguese history.



He became an icon in Portugal due to the role of his music in the resistance against the dictatorial regime of Salazar. He is still widely listened to, not only in Portugal, but also abroad. In 1973, José Afonso continued his "pilgrimage", singing all over Portugal. Many of his appearances were forcibly cancelled by the Political Police. In April he was arrested and sentenced to 20 days in Caxias prison (a facility used mostly to jail political prisoners) until the end of May. In the prison he wrote the poem *Era Um Redondo Vocábulo*. From 1974 to 1975 he became directly involved in the popular revolutionary movements.

José Afonso died in Setúbal at 3 am on 23 February 1987, aged 57, a victim of the sclerosis that had been diagnosed in 1982.

His funeral in Setúbal was attended by 30,000 people. The procession took two hours to cover 1300 meters. His coffin was covered with a red flag with no symbols

