



REDE MOCAMBICANA DOS
DEFENSORES DE DIREITOS HUMANOS
RMDDH

TRAINING IN HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION MECHANISMS AND THE ROLE OF ELECTORAL OBSERVERS AS HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS DURING THE ELECTORAL PROCESS

Terms of reference

Tete, June 20, 2024

I. CONTEXT

The year 2024 is a particularly challenging year for Human Rights Defenders due to the general elections scheduled for October 9th. In Mozambique, the situation of Human Rights and their defenders is worrying and highlights the reduction of space for civic participation and repression of fundamental freedoms.

According to the latest report from CIVICUS Monitor, a global initiative that analyzes and monitors fundamental freedoms in 196 nations, Mozambique was reclassified from "obstructed" to "repressive", the second worst rating a country can have. This assessment points to a systematic violation of essential freedoms, such as freedom of expression, assembly and demonstration in the country.

Elections are the center of democracy and continue to be the main space where citizens exercise their rights to participate in public affairs. Despite being carried out regularly and, ideally, allowing the free participation of citizens, they often occur in a context of deterioration and restriction of civic space, where human rights defenders face threats, intimidation, harassment, kidnappings and even murders.

During this period, the safety of human rights defenders is a matter of concern, as they become vulnerable due to the work they do in addressing human rights violations and exposing the responsibility of state agents or other perpetrators of violence or abuse.

An instructive example occurred in the 2019 elections, when Anastácio Matavel, an election observer and human rights defender, was murdered by police officers during the election campaign ¹. This tragic event highlights the risky environment in which Human Rights defenders operate during the electoral period. Therefore, it is important to provide Human Rights Defenders with knowledge about the protection mechanisms available to help them carry out their work safely during elections.

¹ <https://www.dw.com/pt-002/assassinato-de-anast%C3%A1cio-matavele-um-crime-de-estado-que-continua-na-gaveta/a-53060290>

In this context, the Mozambique Human Rights Defenders Network (RMDDH) is organizing training for Human Rights Defenders on Human Rights Protection mechanisms during elections.

The activity is carried out within the scope of the project Strengthening the Capacity and Defense of Human Rights Defenders and Civic Space in Mozambique, a project implemented by RMDDH with the support of the Civil Society Learning and Training Center (CESC) through the IGUAL Program and financed by the embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

The training will take place in the province of Tete and during the event the "Defender Line" will be presented, a channel available 24 hours a day, through which Human Rights Defenders can request support and/or protection.

II. OBJECTIVE

The objective of this event is to train Human Rights Defenders on the mechanisms for protecting Human Rights, including the role of election observers as Human Rights Defenders during the electoral period.

III. FORMAT AND PARTICIPANTS

The event will be in person and will feature the participation of Human Rights Defenders, representatives of civil society organizations, journalists and cooperation partners from the province of Tete.

IV. PLACE, DATE AND TIME OF EVENTS

The event will take place in the city of Tete, province of the same name, on June 20, at 9 am.

V. PROGRAM

| June 20, 2024 | |
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| Tete City | |
| 09:00-09:30 | Arrival and registration of participants |
| 09:30-10:00 | Context and opening notes <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prof. Adriano Nuvunga, President of RMDDH• Aurélio Capito, Provincial Representative of RMDDH• João Gaspar Barroso, Administrator of Tete |
| 10:00-10:20 | Family photo and <i>networking</i> |
| 10:20-10:40 | Elections and Civic Engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prof. Arsénio Luambo, Professor at UNIPÚNGUE |
| 10:40-11:00 | Election Observers as Human Rights Defenders: The vital role of election observers in defending Human Rights <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jamal Eugénio, OREMO Program Officer |
| 11:00-11:30 | Debate <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Neide Martins, RMDDH Assistant |
| 11:30-11:50 | International mechanisms for the protection of Human Rights and election observers as Human Rights Defenders <ul style="list-style-type: none">• • Yara Lamúgio, RMDDH |
| 11:50-12:10 | National mechanisms for the protection of Human Rights and election observers as Human Rights defenders <ul style="list-style-type: none">• • Yara Lamúgio, RMDDH |
| 12:10-12:40 | Debate <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Neide Martins, RMDDH Assistant |
| 12:40-13:40 | Lunch |

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| 13:40-14:00 | The experience of the Human Rights Defenders Protection Programme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elisabeth-Selbert-Initiative |
| 14:00-14:20 | Training on the Defender Line and RMDDH protection form <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ngandife Karina, Project Manager at RMDDH |
| 14:20-14:50 | Questions and Answers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neide Martins, RMDDH Assistant |
| 14:50-15:00 | Final considerations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Adriano Nuvunga, President of RMDDH |
| End | |

