

2021

**SOUTHERN AFRICA
HUMAN RIGHTS
DEFENDERS**

SUMMIT

MAPUTO, MOZAMBIQUE

**DECEMBER
02 - 03, 2021**

www.southernafricadefenders.africa

SUMMIT AGENDA



REDE MOCAMBICANA DOS
DEFENSORES DE DIREITOS HUMANOS
RMDDH

**SOUTHERN
DEFENDERS** 
Southern Africa Human Rights Defenders Network

**“DEFENDING RIGHTS
AND PROTECTING DEMOCRACIES
IN THE FACE OF RISING INEQUALITY
& AUTHORITARIANISM”**

**JOAQUIM CHISSANO
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTER
MAPUTO, MOZAMBIQUE**

CENTRO INTERNACIONAL DE CONFERÊNCIAS JOAQUIM CHISSANO

OVERVIEW



The Southern Africa Human Rights Defenders Network (Southern Defenders), in partnership with Mozambican Human Rights Defenders Network (RMDDH), Advancing Human Rights in Southern Africa (ARISA), United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights Regional Office for Southern Africa (OHCHR ROSA), and Amnesty International, will host the 2021 Southern Africa Human Rights Defenders Summit from December 2-3, 2021 in Maputo, Mozambique. The summit will bring together human rights defenders (HRDs) and civil society organisations (CSOs) from Southern Africa to take stock of the ground-breaking gains as well as the challenges and risks faced by HRDs in the face of shrinking civic space in the region.

OVERVIEW

The theme for this year's summit - **Defending Rights and Protecting Democracies in the face of Rising Inequality and Authoritarianism** – reflects the serious reality and unprecedented risks of persecution that HRDs face. These violations include arbitrary arrests and detention, torture, enforced disappearances, violent evictions, sexual assaults, clamping down on online space and the use of outdated laws to prosecute defenders.

In 2021, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the accompanying restrictive lockdown measures continue to impact negatively on the work of HRDs who rely on open and free civic spaces to carry out their activism in pursuit of social justice and democratic reform. In the SADC region, six countries declared states of emergencies and another six declared states of disaster. In many countries, these measures curtail free movement and make it difficult for defenders to reach places of safety. Activists who work online are often subject to surveillance. Security forces have used excessive and lethal force in the enforcement of COVID-19 regulations, people have died in police custody, and incidents of gender-based violence soared. The ability to seek political asylum has been restrained leaving many defenders at risk of further persecution based on their activism. COVID-19 has also exacerbated health conditions in prisons. The closure of courts

and suspension of prison inspection visits in some jurisdictions due to the pandemic severely affected access to justice.

Laws and amendments to existing legislation have been used to restrict civic space this includes constitutional amendments and cyber-crime bills which have a chilling effect on HRDs.

The persecution of HRDs by non-state actors, often in the extractive sector, persists in virtually every country in the region. With the ever-increasing contest and resulting conflict over natural resources, environmental defenders continue to be murdered, harassed, intimidated, criminalized and forced from their native lands by unscrupulous multinational companies. According to the 2020 Frontline Defenders Report, land and environmental HRDs are three times more likely to be attacked or harassed compared to HRDs working in other thematic areas. Businesses still have work to do to ensure compliance with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. This includes the import to address the issue of internet shutdowns.

Across the region, women human rights defenders are particularly at risk, both as defenders of rights but also as women challenging patriarchy and traditional gender norms and, as a result, face different forms of violence, prejudice and exclusion

OVERVIEW

than their male counterparts. Similarly, youth HRDs continue to face structural marginalisation and violent exclusion despite their growth in influence and confidence in defending democracy in the region.

The struggle for LGBTI+ rights has made significant gains over the past years which include, decriminalisation of same-sex sexual acts in Botswana and Angola. However, protection challenges remain amongst LGBTI+ communities and transgender activists who continue to be the target of harassment and persecution.

In contrast to these negative trends, we have observed a few positive developments that strengthen the protection of defenders, including:

- Active solidarity: better collaboration and coordination between human rights defenders in the region;
- Evidence-based and data-driven advocacy: strategic litigation opportunities to protect and uphold human rights and a gradually expanding case law on the protection of HRDs;
- Mobilisation: new digital technologies used for civil society mobilization and participation; and
- Media resilience: improved media coverage.

In response to the complex challenges, the regional convening will allow HRDs and human rights organisations to contemplate creative ways of building solidarity across the region to defend civic space and protect the rights of HRDs.

Summit Coordinator
Washington Katema
+27736202608

SUMMIT AGENDA

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SOUTHERN AFRICA
■ **HUMAN RIGHTS**
DEFENDERS SUMMIT

Maputo, Mozambique

The summit will utilize a hybrid format of both in-person and virtual participation

Thursday

Summit Link



Moderator:

Prof. Jose Jaime Macuane

SUMMIT AGENDA

THURSDAY DECEMBER 02, 2021

09:00 – 10:00

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Prof. Adriano Nuvunga

Mozambican Human Rights Defenders Network

Tiseke Kasambala

Advancing Rights in Southern Africa (ARISA)

Deprose Muchena

Amnesty International

Abigail Noko

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human rights, Regional Office of Southern Africa

H.E. Henry de Vries

Netherlands Embassy in Mozambique

Arnold Tsunga

Southern Africa Human Rights Defenders Network (Southern Defenders)

10:00 - 10:20

GUEST OF HONOUR ADDRESS

H.E. Mama Graça Machel

10:20 - 10:35

OFFICIAL OPENING

Dr. Helena Mateus Kida

Minister of Justice, Constitutional & Religious Affairs of the Republic of Mozambique

10:35 - 11:15

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Mary Lawlor

UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders

Clément Voule

UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association

11:15 - 11:30

GROUP PHOTO & TEA BREAK

THURSDAY DECEMBER 02, 2021

11:30 - 13:00

SPEAKERS:

DEFENDING DEMOCRACIES:**The Role of HRDs – Lessons from Malawi, Zambia, and the region.****Gift Trapence**

Malawi Human Rights Defenders Coalition

David Kode

CIVICUS

Dr. Sishuwa Sishuwa

University of Cape Town and University of Zambia

Tiseke Kasambala

Advancing Rights in Southern Africa (ARISA)

Siphosami Malunga

Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa

MODERATOR:

Lúcia Da Silveira

Southern Defenders

13:00 - 14:00

LUNCH

14:00 - 15:30

SPEAKERS:

BUILDING RESILIENT AND INDEPENDENT INSTITUTIONS TO PROTECT HRDS**Dzimbabwe Chimnga**

Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa

Onesmo Olengurumwa

Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition

Luís Bitone Nahe

National Human Rights Commission (CNDH), Mozambique

Linda Kasonde

Chapter One Foundation

Deprose Muchena

Amnesty International

MODERATOR:

Annah Moyo-Kupeta

CSVR-The Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation

15:30 - 15:45

LAUNCH OF THE LUSOPHONE DEPOSITORY ON HUMAN RIGHTS - ACDH & ARISA

15:45 - 16:00

TEA BREAK

16:00 - 17:30

SIDE EVENTS

- o Land and Environmental Rights Defenders
- o eSwatini
- o Digital Security

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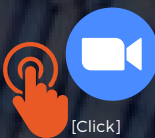
Maputo, Mozambique

The summit will utilize a hybrid format of both in-person and virtual participation

Friday

Moderator:
Dr. McDonald Lewanika
Accountability Lab

Summit Link



SUMMIT AGENDA

FRIDAY DECEMBER 03, 2021

09:00 – 11:15

STANDWITHER:

Re-setting the Agenda for Womxn Human Rights Defenders in Southern Africa

SPEAKERS:

Nandini Tanya Lallmon

African Network of Youth Policy, Mauritius

Dr. Alda Salomão

Mozambique

Josina Z. Machel

Mozambique

Kirsten Youens

All Rise Attorneys for Climate and Environmental Justice

Ester Simon

Pan-African Female Youth Leader, Namibia

MODERATOR:

Corlett Letlojane

Southern Defenders/HURISA

11:15-11:30

BREAK

11:30 – 13:00

DEFENDING ARTISTIC FREEDOM & HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDING

SPEAKERS:

Julie Trébaud

Artists at Risk Connection (ARC)

Fumba Chama

(Pilato) Zambia

Hon. Deputy Minister Emma I Theofelus

Ministry of Information and Communication Technology - Republic of Namibia

Margaret Aduto

Amani: Africa Creative Defence Network

Zenzele Ndebele

CITE

MODERATOR:

Mantate Mlotshwa

Magamba Network

13:00 - 14:30

LUNCH

14:30 – 16:00

SPEAKERS:

BUILDING BACK BETTER:

Role of civil society in supporting a just and equal post Covid-19

Alice Mogwe

FIDH and DITSHWANELO

Brian Kagoro

Zimbabwean Lawyer & PanAfrican Activist

Laura Miti

Alliance for Community Action, Zambia

Hassan Shire

Pan-African Defenders

Thabo Masuku

Foundation for Socio-Economic Justice, eSwatini

MODERATOR:

Justin Sylvester

Ford Foundation

16:00 – 16:45

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS AWARDS

Clement Voule,

UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association

16:45 - 17:00

CLOSING REMARKS:

Prof. Adriano Nuvunga,

Mozambican Human Rights Defenders Network

18:00-20:30

GALA DINNER



WALLACE
GLOBAL FUND



THE
SIGRID
RAUSING
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Phone:

+27 78 125-1062
+27 73 620 2608

Email:

info@southernafricadefenders.africa

Address:

158 Jan Smuts Avenue
Rosebank, Johannesburg
South Africa