



REDE MOÇAMBICANA DOS  
DEFENSORES DE DIREITOS HUMANOS

**RMDDH**



## PRESS RELEASE

# Threats against the lawyer João Nhampossa and invasion of his office

It was with deep concern and anger that the Mozambique Human Rights Defenders Network (RMDDH) received the information on the threats against the lawyer and human rights defender João Nhampossa and the invasion of his office.

On the night of 22 January, unknown individuals broke into João Nhampossa's office and stole a computer, mobile phone and several documents. The raid on the office follows a series of threats that the human rights lawyer has been suffering in recent weeks.

According to reports, the raiders took advantage of the time when works were being carried out in one of the houses on the upper floor of the building where the lawyer's office is located to break in and remove all the material that interested them.

João Nhampossa is one of the few lawyers fighting for human rights, especially the rights of communities affected by the extractive industry and other mega-projects, and is an active member of the Mozambique Human Rights Defenders Network (RMDDH).

The lawyer was recently on one of the television channels to comment on the process of sale of Vale

Mozambique and works on various issues of public interest and Human Rights, such as hidden debts, extractive industry and illegal tolls installed on the Maputo ring road.

The RMDDH believes that this is an intimidation and not a simple robbery. The evildoers knew what they were looking for since they only collected everything they had on work information, including documents.

This event shows once again that the human rights situation in Mozambique remains worrying and human rights defenders are often subjected to various forms of repression, harassment, kidnapping and psychological and physical violence.

The RMDDH strongly condemns the actions of intimidation against the lawyer João Nhampossa and regrets the occurrence of acts that aim to hinder the work of Human Rights defenders in Mozambique.

The RMDDH demands the authorities to investigate and hold responsible the persons involved in the case.

**Maputo, 27 January 2022**