



REDE MOCAMBICANA DOS
DEFENSORES DE DIREITOS HUMANOS
RMDDH

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Public launch of the Mozambican Human Rights Defenders Network in Sofala

- After mapping the civil society organizations that are in the front line in the fight for human rights and official launches in the provinces of Gaza, Tete, Nampula, Zambézia, and Cabo Delgado, the Mozambican Human Rights Defenders Network (RMDDH) proceeded to the public launch of the initiative in the province of Sofala, city of Beira, on July 6, 2022.





The event took place in the conference room of the Beira Terrace Hotel and was attended by 57 Human Rights Defenders representing prominent civil society organizations in Sofala province.

The objective of the event was to introduce RMDDH to human rights defenders in Sofala,

and to the general public, as a civil society initiative that is working to strengthen the capacities and resilience of human rights defenders in Mozambique, as well as to improve their protection and security in the framework of their mission to defend human dignity, fight injustices, and prevent the closing of civic space.

Human rights defenders at the launch of the RMDDH in Sofala

During the event, was made a presentation of the Report on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders for the year 2021, by human rights lawyer, João Nhampossa, who participated via online, followed by a debate among those present at the event. Finally, the coordinator of RMDDH, Sheila Nhancale made a brief presentation of the main activities carried out since its official creation.

Established in 2020, RMDDH provides de-

mand-driven technical assistance to local human rights-focused organizations, as well as providing holistic protection for human rights defenders at high and immediate risk. This holistic protection involves physical protection in the form of legal representation, medical support, prison visits, as well as internal and external displacement. RMDDH also provides digital security with a strategic focus on im-



proving the digital rights and digital hygiene of human rights defenders in Mozambique. In addition, and equally important, RMDDH provides psychosocial support to all human rights

defenders, with a strategic bias on vulnerable groups. RMDDH is a member of the Southern Africa Human Rights defenders Network (Southern Defenders).

“The RMDDH reinforces the actions of Human Rights Defenders in Sofala”, Catarina Artur



Acácio Pereira, Catarina Artur and Laida Evaristo

Human Rights Defenders reported, during the launch event of RMDDH in Sofala, the situation of Human Rights Defenders in the province and said it is important the establishment of RMDDH in their province and that it comes to strengthen their actions. “We have experienced several violations of our rights in Sofala, but RMDDH is important and comes to strengthen the actions of human rights defenders in the province,” said Catarina Artur, Executive Director of Pressão Nacional dos Direitos Humanos. “We have been victims of violations by



public authorities for defending other people's human rights. We feel that we human rights defenders have no protection, how can we protect other people? We end up putting our lives in danger to defend the Human Rights of other people," she added.

Acácio Pereira, a human rights lawyer, pointed out that many times the action of human rights defenders is prevented by the Police of the Republic of Mozambique (PRM). "Our action has been prevented by the PRM. In my or-

ganization, I was given the task of following up on a case involving a SERNIC agent who made an illegal arrest. When I arrived at the police station I received threats," said Acácio Pereira. "It is very difficult to work in these terms, we have no way to defend ourselves. The threats often end with attacks," he added.

In fact, Laida Evaristo, human rights defender, said: "we live constantly with our rights violated. not only defenders, but the common citizen as well".

Lançada na Beira Rede que reforça acções e garante defesa dos defensores de direitos humanos em Sofala

Beira (O Autarca) – Foi formalmente lançada ontem na cidade da Beira a Rede Moçambicana dos Defensores dos Direitos Humanos

De acordo com Simão Tila, membro do Steering Committee da RMDDH, que teceu notas de abertura do evento de ontem na Beira, a iniciativa da criação da rede visa garantir a defesa dos direitos humanos e defender os defensores dos direitos humanos, prestando apoio jurídico em caso de violação dos seus direitos, sobretudo os mais vulneráveis, advocar pela abertura do espaço cívico e aplicação correcta das leis em defesa dos defensores dos direitos humanos.

Catarina Costa, da Pressão dos Direitos Humanos, congratulou a iniciativa, referindo que a mesma vêem reforçar as acções dos activistas dos direitos humanos.

Por seu turno, Feliciano Matque, um proeminente activista social em Sofala disse que a rede é bem vinda, na medida em que irá contribuir para



Simão Tila, comité de direcção da RMDDH



Catarina Costa, Pressão dos Direitos Humanos



Participantes da reunião da RMDDH



Feliciano Matque, AMACO

impulsionar e à resiliência das acções dos defensores dos direitos humanos neste ponto do país. Defendeu maior ar-

ticulação e, sobretudo, cooperação entre as organizações que já trabalham em prol dos direitos humanos. ■ (R)



LANÇAMENTO DA REDE MOÇAMBICANA DOS DEFENSORES DE DIREITOS HUMANOS EM SOFALA

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