

STATEMENT OF CONDEMNATION

Statement of Condemnation and Denounce of the Threat to the Life of the Activist Adriano Nuvunga

We are very concerned about the macabre and cowardly act of threatening the physical integrity of the social activist Adriano Nuvunga, Director of the Center for Democracy and Development (CDD) and President of the Mozambique Human Rights Defenders Network (RMDDH).

On the Monday daybreak of 15th August, 2022, unknown individuals threw two projectiles/bullets into the backyard of Adriano Nuvunga's residence. According to the National Criminal Investigation Service (SERNIC) officers, the projectiles belong to an assault rifle AK-47. The projectiles were thrown at the front door of activist Adriano Nuvunga's residence in Maputo City while he was still sleeping, presumably around 5:00 am.

The projectiles were partially wrapped in a white paper with a writing not possible to decipher in full, but in which one of the phrases says "WATCH OUT NUVUNGA". The occurrence was timely reported to the police authorities and SERNIC officers went to the scene to collect the projectiles and gather all information relevant to the investigation in order to clarify the case.

This episode undoubtedly represents a cowardly act of intimidation and threat to the life of the social activist Adriano Nuvunga, for which we repudiate and condemn, expressing our total solidarity with the President of the Mozambique Human Rights Defenders Network (RMDDH) and his family.

We want to unequivocally emphasize that social organizations are institutions created in the light of the Constitution of the Republic of Mozambique and the activities of their members are fully covered by the law, and therefore must operate in a peaceful environment and under the protection of the competent State bodies.

This macabre act takes place in a context of increasing closure of civic space and attempts to block the activities of civil society organizations.

It is against this trend that the civil society organizations that are signatories of this Statement of Condemnation and Denounce come to the public to demand that the investigation of the case be swift and its results identify the perpetrators for their criminal liability.

We will not remain silent against cowardly acts of threats to the exercise of freedoms, rights and constitutional guarantees of citizens, even if they are staged using firearms. The right to life and security is the most basic human right and recognized as a Fundamental Right of Mozambican citizens through the Constitution of the Republic of Mozambique.

Maputo, 16th August 2022

The signatory organizations:

