



Human Rights Defenders Situation in the Context of Elections in Mozambique

"ANASTÁCIO MATAVEL: THREE YEARS OF IMPUNITY FOR THOSE BEHIND THE CRIME"

Monday, October 17th 2022

10:30 – 12:00 CAT

Zoom Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87855061355>

ID: 878 5506 1355

The Mozambique Human Rights Defenders Network (RMDDH) is organizing, on October 17th, from 10.30 to 12.00, a webinar entitled “**Anastácio Matavel: Three years of impunity for those behind the crime**”, aiming to address the human rights defenders situation during the electoral period in Mozambique.

The webinar is to mark the passage of three years of the shooting murder of Anastácio Matavel, one of the most troublesome voices and Human Rights Defender in Gaza Province. Anastácio Matavel was killed on the morning of October 7th, 2019, in Xai-Xai City, a week before the holding of the elections for which he was an observer. The murder - which meets all the requirements of a politically ordered killing - was carried out by officers assigned to the Republic of Mozambique Police (PRM) special units in Gaza Province.

Although in the sentence of June 18th 2020, the Judicial Court of Gaza Province has condemned four (04) defendants to terms of 23 to 24 years of long-term imprisonment, the judgment did not explain the crime that silenced this Human Rights Defender. That is, the sentence did not say who ordered the murder of Anastácio Matavele; what were the reasons; and how they contacted the UIR agents. [More details here.](#)

The murder of Anastácio Matavel one week before the 2019 general elections shows the vulnerability of the Democracy Defenders in electoral contexts in Mozambique. Many Democracy Defenders who participate in electoral processes as observers are prevented from doing their work of monitoring and denouncing situations that embody electoral fraud.

Through the webinar, RMDDH aims to strengthen the capacities and resilience of Human Rights Defenders, as well as improve protection and security within their mission of promoting and defending Human Rights in electoral contexts.

PROGRAMME

10h30 – 10h40	Arrival of participants, welcome notes and introduction of the speakers
10h40 – 11h00	Background of the event: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Adriano Nuvunga – Chairperson of the RMDDH
	Opening remarks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Arnold Tsunga – Chairman of the Southern Africa Human Rights Defenders Network (Southern Defenders) • Dra. Ivete Mafundza – United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Mozambique
11h00 – 11h50	Speaker, theme overview & Q&A: <p>Testimony: Impact of the Anastácio Matavel's murder on the work of Human Rights Defenders and election observers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human Rights Defender Election Observer Journalist - Dr. Carlos Mula <p>Legal framework on Human Rights Defenders in electoral contexts in Mozambique and implications for the State in the Anastácio Matavel murder case</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human Rights Lawyer Specialist in Elections University Lecturer Researcher - Dr Eduardo Chiziane <p>Violation of the rights of Human Rights Defenders in electoral contexts in Mozambique</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Human Rights Defender Human Rights Researcher - Dr. Zenaida Machado <p>Experience and alternatives for the promotion of a safe environment for Human Rights Defenders during election period</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Human Rights Defender Human Rights Researcher - Dr. Margareth Nanga
11h45 – 12h00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closing remarks: <p>Prof. Adriano Nuvunga</p>
END!	

