



REDE MOCAMBICANA DOS
DEFENSORES DE DIREITOS HUMANOS
RMDDH

Thursday, December 8, 2022 | Year 3, NO. 38 | Director: Prof. Adriano Nuvunga | English

Government must stop persecuting doctors who are on strike

- After about eight years of complaints, with the Government turning a blind eye, doctors had no choice but to go on strike. This week they started a partial stoppage of activities to put pressure on the Government to solve their problems. However, since they announced their intention to strike, the doctors have been suffering persecution by the Government, which the RMDDH understands to be, in all respects, unacceptable, even more so when the Executive has had enough time to resolve concerns from class.



Créditos: O País

There are several concerns that these health professionals have been expressing since 2014, in a fight for the recognition of their rights enshrined in the Statute of Doctors. But the Government never desired to listen and resolve the concerns of the class and the implementation of the Single Salary Table (TSU) worsened the relationship between doctors and the Government, leading the class to start, this Monday, December 5th, a 21-day national strike¹.

Meanwhile, the RMDDH knows that since they announced their intention to strike, doctors have been victims of persecution from the Government, through the various departments of the health sector, from the central, provincial, the district level. Harassment takes different forms, including threats, intimidation, initiation of disciplinary proceedings, and even the application of absences to professionals who enjoy a constitutional right and duly communicated to the authorities.

Incidentally, the Mozambican Medical Association (AMM) has already come out publicly to denounce that its members have been persecuted by the Government.

"[The persecutions come] from hospital directorates, provincial directorates, district directorates, in this case, district services for health, women and social action. Anyway, we have been watching, a little by all these bodies (...) What we see is that there are several situations of threats, intimidation, disciplinary proceedings, triple fouls for some colleagues (...)", told the television channel STV, Napoleão Viola, Secretary General of the AMM.

However, the RMDDH considers the perse-

cution of doctors to be unacceptable, even more so when the Government had all the time possible to resolve the concerns of the class. Instead of seeking to resolve the problems based on honest dialogue, the Executive, as usual, ignored concerns until the situation became untenable. As the General Secretary of the AMM, Napoleão Viola, said, the current strike is the "only form of struggle that we have left, after, in terms of dialogue, we did not have solutions".

Without prejudice to the work that the AMM says it is doing, namely the collection of material for, in its headquarters, to make a criminal or even disciplinary report against all those who intimidate and prevent the doctors' strike from taking place, the RMDDH calls for an immediate end to these condemnable acts.

In addition, in this case, resulting from the insensitivity of the Government, the strike is a fundamental right that every Mozambican citizen enjoys. Therefore, by going on strike, the medical profession is not carrying out any criminal act, but, on the contrary, exercising citizenship, a sacred value in democracies.

Indeed, the RMDDH advises against, in the strongest terms, any witch-hunting action against doctors. At this time when doctors are back on strike, the Government cannot make the mistake of repeating the same events of 2013, launching persecutions that will only produce martyrs like the then president of the AMM, the deceased Jorge Arroz who, as the face of the strikers' cause, he ended up in a police station and on the benches of the Public Prosecutor's Office. The Government could spare itself another discredit.

¹ Link to CDD text: Tired of the Government's neglect, doctors start today a 21-day national strike.



REDE MOÇAMBICANA DOS
DEFENSORES DE DIREITOS HUMANOS
RMDDH



EDITORIAL INFORMATION

Property: RMDDH
President: Prof. Adriano Nuvunga
Editor: Emídio Beúla
Author: RMDDH
Layout: RMDDH

FINANCING PARTNERS



Rua Dar-Es-Salaam, número 279, Bairro Sommerschild, Maputo -Moçambique **Contacto** +258 857645056
 Email : info@redemoz-defensoresdireitoshumanos.org @RMDDH_Moz rmdmh_moz
 Facebook:@RMDDHMoz redemoz-defensoresdireitoshumanos.org/ **LinkedIn**: rmddh