



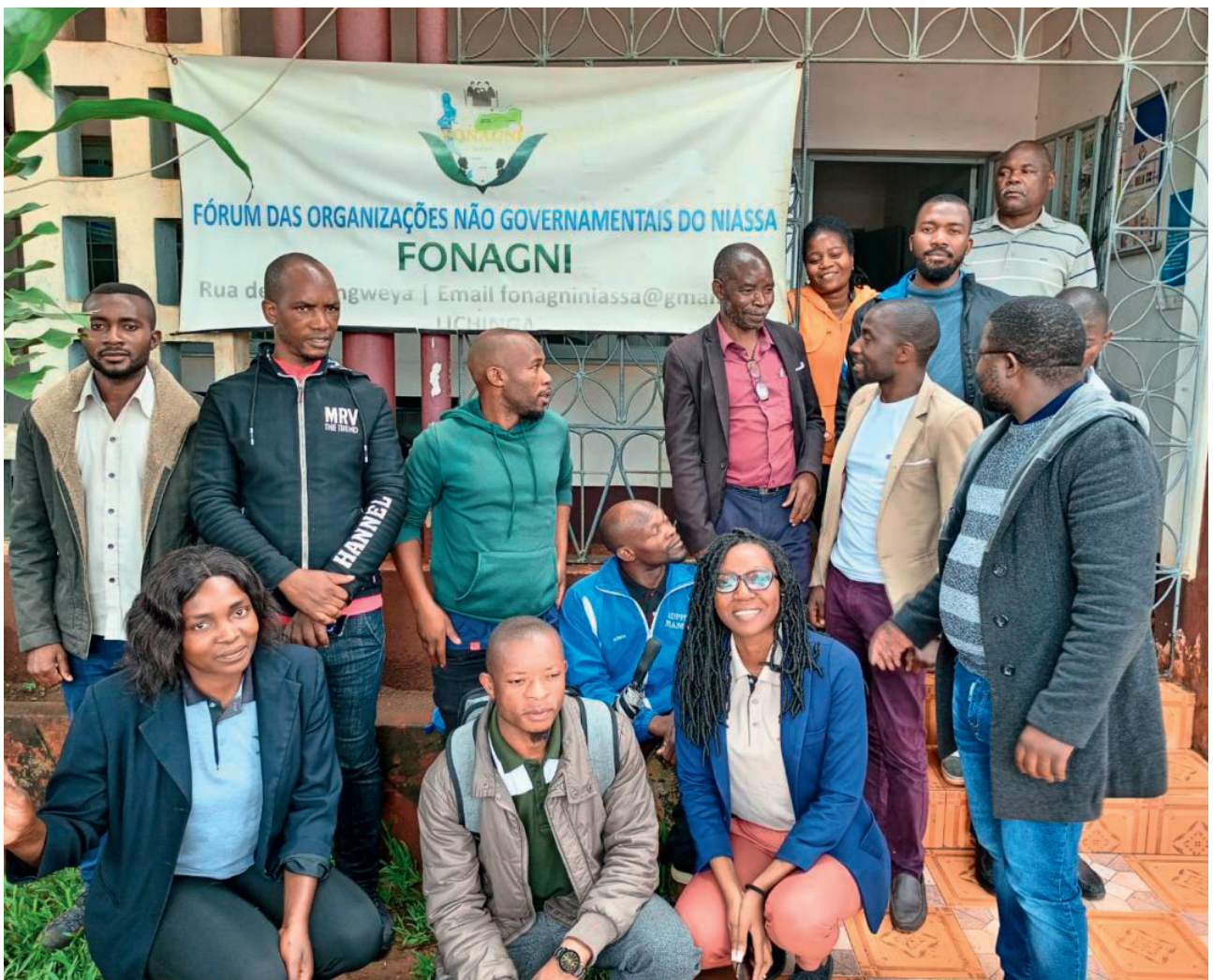
REDE MOCAMBICANA DOS
DEFENSORES DE DIREITOS HUMANOS

RMDDH

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RMDDH starts mapping Human Rights Defenders in Niassa province

- The Mozambican Network of Human Rights Defenders (RMDDH) started last week (Wednesday, March 15) the mapping of Human Rights Defenders who are on the front line in Niassa province.





As part of this activity, the RMDDH brought together in Lichinga 33 representatives of 15 civil society organizations whose objective is centered on the promotion and protection of Human Rights. Among the participants, 19 are women.

The Mapping aims to create a database of Human Rights Defenders in Niassa and identify the main risks depending on their area of activity.

The main point mentioned during the meetings has to do with the fact that the political power in that province does not accept the work of Human Rights Defenders. The ruling party, through its representatives, who hold important positions, often threaten, persecute and even murder Human Rights Defenders for the work they do.

Additionally, Human Rights Defenders in Niassa reported that, at the level of the judiciary, episodes of corruption and lack of professionalism on the part of justice agents further complicate their work.

“When I went to the Niassa Provincial Attorney’s Office to report a case of gender-based violence, the justice agent who attended to me said that this was not a matter that deserved attention and that I should leave,” said a Human Rights Defender in Niassa.

At the social level, lack of information and local habits and customs also disturb the

work of Human Rights Defenders, especially when women lead causes for women’s rights, as well as LGBTQI+ rights.

For Human Rights Defenders in Niassa, the lack of technical capacity in matters of Human Rights and mechanisms for the protection of Human Rights further aggravates their situation of vulnerability and risk.

“There are many cases that we cannot follow up on due to the lack of knowledge. This situation needs to improve and we count on the support of the RMDDH so that we can be equipped with knowledge in matters of Human Rights”, said a Human Rights Defender from Niassa.

Last but not least, Human Rights Defenders in Niassa mentioned that the fact that there are no synergies between organizations – locally and nationally – puts the province in the background in matters of capacity building for local Human Rights organizations.

In this sense, the main risks identified are: threats, persecution, corruption, arbitrary arrests, aggressions - often by public representatives, manipulation of information, lack of training, and a culture of closing civic space through a politicized State.

The mapping will culminate in the establishment of a provincial nucleus of Human Rights Defenders that will form part of the RMDDH.



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