

RMDDH, AMM and APM launch partnership for the promotion and protection of human rights in Mozambique

- The Mozambique Human Rights Defenders Network (RMDDH), the Mozambican Association of Doctors (AMM), and the Mozambican Association of Psychologists (APM) launched a partnership for the promotion and protection of human rights in Mozambique.



The partnership launching event took place on March 27, 2023, in Maputo City, under the motto "Human rights workshop for doctors and psychologists in Mozambique".

The objective is to contribute to strengthening the capacities of doctors and psycholo-

gists in human rights matters, as well as to promote coordinated work between the RMDDH, AMM, and APM to guarantee safe care for human rights defenders in Mozambique.

AMM board member Mustuafa Agy, and the President of the Installing Commission of the Order of Psychologists, Prof. Reginaldo



Prof. Reginaldo Salinas

Salinas, recognized the common interest in defending respect for human rights and the importance of coordination strategy to guarantee safe attendance to human rights defenders in Mozambique.

“We are happy to be able to coordinate with the RMDDH and the AMM to promote human rights, as this is also the objective of the APM”, said Prof. Reginaldo Salinas.

Mustuafa Agy, on the other hand, expressed openness to the establishment of a partnership between the RMDDH, AMM and APM to promote and protect human rights. “We hope that this is the beginning of several projects between the RMDDH and the AMM. In a context where human rights have been systematically violated in the country and their defenders have been the target of various atrocities, this workshop is very welcome”, added Agy.

The event had 31 participants from all over the country, of which 17 were women.



APM Mustuafa Agy , AMM

Among the participants, 13 are psychologists, 11 are doctors and seven are human rights defenders.

The workshop was organized by the RMDDH, in partnership with the AMM, the APM, and the Citizen’s Observatory for Health (OCS).

Role of Doctors and Psychologists in advancing human rights



During the presentations, Jorge Matine, Director of OCS, and Calvin Fambirai, Executive Director of the Association of Doctors for Human Rights of Zimbabwe (ZADHR), referred that, within the scope of their activities, doctors and psychologists play a fundamental role in the promotion and protection of human rights.

"Doctors and psychologists are funda-

mental in the protection of human rights, as they play a central role in documenting violations of rights while providing medical and psychosocial care to victims of violations of rights", said Calvin Fambirai. In turn, Jorge Matine stressed that this act of citizenship only happens when doctors and psychologists carry out their activities within professional ethics.



Prof. Adriano Nuvunga



RMDDH Jorge Matine, OCS



Calvin Fambirai, ZADHR

In turn, doctors and psychologists mentioned several challenges they face in carrying out their activities freely and intending to protect human rights. One of the

challenges has to do with the lack of knowledge about human rights matters.

"The lack of understanding by psychologists and doctors about human rights issues can influence the care of patients who belong to certain minority and risk groups, as is the case of human rights defenders", said psychologist Vera da Silva.

In addition to the lack of knowledge in human rights matters, security is a concern for doctors and psychologists in Mozambique. "We are concerned because we don't want our work to be seen as an affront to the government of the day and put us at risk in assisting human rights defenders," said a doctor.



Human rights defenders are exposed to increased risks due to the nature of their work

¹ https://www.protectioninternational.org/sites/default/files/npmfhrd_english1.pdf

the most varied forms of repression, persecution, kidnapping, murder, and arbitrary arrest. They, therefore, need specific and reinforced protection at local, national, and international levels.

Certain groups of human rights defenders are exposed to increased risks because of the nature of their work, the issues they are working on, the context in which they operate, their geographic location, or because they belong to or are associated with a particular group. These rights-violating environments are often traumatizing and can impact the physical health of human rights defenders.

However, the health and well-being of human rights defenders have been neglected by human rights organizations, funders, and defenders themselves².

It is within this context that, as part of its mission, the RMDDH provides medical assistance and psychosocial support to human rights defenders and journalists who need safe advice for their work.

The RMDDH is a Mozambican civil society initiative that aims to strengthen the capacity and resilience of human rights defenders, as well as improve protection and security within the scope of its mission to promote and defend human rights.



² <https://www.hhri.org/thematic-page-post/hr-defenders-subheading/mental-health-related-issues/>



OFICINA

DE DIREITOS HUMANOS PARA MÉDICOS E PSICÓLOGOS EM MOÇAMBIQUE



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