



REDE MOCAMBICANA DOS  
DEFENSORES DE DIREITOS HUMANOS  
**RMDDH**

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## **RMDDH maps Human Rights Defenders in Inhambane and establishes the provincial nucleus**

- Between the 20th and 22nd of March 2023, the Mozambique Human Rights Defenders Network (RMDDH) carried out a mapping of Human Rights Defenders who are at the forefront of defending Human Rights in the province of Inhambane.





**A**s part of this activity, the RMDDH brought together 31 Human Rights Defenders, representing 13 civil society organizations whose objective focuses on the promotion and protection of human rights. Among the participants, 16 are women.

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

One of the challenges that Inhambane Province Defenders mentioned is the lack of recognition of the value of their work and intimidation by some political leaders. "Here in Inhambane, the Government doesn't understand us" and usually says: "they won't work here", shared a Human Rights Defender who

promotes the right to health. "Many times the law is not even applied due to the influence of certain people with political power here in the province", added a Human Rights Defender from Inhambane who promotes the strengthening of capacities of young people and women.

Human Rights Defenders in Inhambane also criticized the closure of civic space and the impediment to peaceful demonstrations in the province. "We are prevented from marching and holding meetings to discuss human rights issues," said a defender who promotes women's human rights.

Additionally, due to the prevailing political intolerance in the province, some Human Rights Defenders are often labeled as members of the opposition. "Often they make political



connotations of our actions . These connotations end in persecution and physical aggression”.

As in other provinces of the country, in Inhambane, Human Rights Defenders mentioned that 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.

“The lack of knowledge makes it difficult for us to follow up on cases of violations of the human rights of citizens of our province. This situation even puts us at risk, as well as contributing to the perpetuation of impunity and injustice”, said a Human Rights Defender in Inhambane.

In this sense, the main risks identified are: threats, intimidation, persecution, arrests arbitrary, physical aggression - often by political leaders or figures with public power, political connotation, limited access to justice institutions and other public institutions, lack of training, and culture of closing civic space.



The mapping culminated in the establishment of a provincial nucleus of Human Rights Defenders that is part of the RMDDH.

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