



REDE MOÇAMBICANA DOS  
DEFENSORES DE DIREITOS HUMANOS

**RMDDH**

## **RMDDH Deeply Concerned About the Mysterious Disappearance of Journalist and Political Activist Arlindo Chissale**

The disappearance of Arlindo Chissale, a supporter of Venâncio Mondlane, occurs at a time when selective assassinations of delegates and representatives of the Optimistic People for Mozambique's Development (PODEMOS) party are being reported. PODEMOS supported Mondlane's presidential candidacy.

The Mozambican Network of Human Rights Defenders (RMDDH) has received with great concern the news of the disappearance of journalist and political activist Arlindo Chissale.

Arlindo Chissale disappeared on Tuesday, January 7, in the Silva Macua area while traveling from Pemba, Cabo Delgado, to Nacala-Porto, in Nampula. Silva Macua is a border region between the provinces of Cabo Delgado and Nampula. His last phone contact with his wife was around 7:00 PM on January 7, during which he said he was traveling safely. Since that call, no further news has been heard about the journalist and activist. Four days of silence have since passed, causing despair and pain for his family and beyond.

Arlindo Chissale is the editor of the "Pinnacle News" portal and was previously the press attaché for the former mayor of Nacala-Porto, Raúl Novinte.

After the split between Venâncio Mondlane and Renamo, Chissale and Novinte began supporting Mondlane. Before his disappearance, Chissale reported threats, including death threats from unidentified individuals.

Chissale has also been the target of two legal proceedings. In the first, he was accused of collaborating with the terrorists who have been attacking Cabo Delgado since October 5, 2017. In the second, he was accused of inciting violence during protests against the 2023 municipal election results.

The disappearance of Arlindo Chissale, a supporter of Venâncio Mondlane, comes amidst reports of selective assassinations of delegates and representatives of the Optimistic People for Mozambique's Development (PODEMOS), the party that backed Mondlane's presidential candidacy.

The RMDDH expresses its deep concern over the mysterious disappearance of Arlindo Chissale and calls on the Mozambican state to take immediate action to locate and return the journalist and activist safely to his family and community.

It is the responsibility of the state to ensure the security of its citizens. If a disappearance occurs, even in the case of a single citizen like Chissale, it signifies that the state has failed in one of its primary functions: ensuring safety.

While calling for state intervention, RMDDH stands in solidarity with Chissale's family and colleagues, hoping that he will be located very soon.

Maputo, January 11, 2024