



REDE MOÇAMBICANA DOS
DEFENSORES DE DIREITOS HUMANOS

RMDDH



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Guardian of Justice Award (In Memoriam)

● In Memory of Elvino Bernardo António Dias

Lawyer, Human Rights Defender, brutally assassinated on October 19, 2024



- Born on April 27, 1979, in the district of Inhassunge, Zambézia Province, Elvino Bernardo António Dias devoted his life to justice, integrity, and the tireless defense of human rights in Mozambique. A graduate of the Faculty of Law at Eduardo Mondlane University (UEM), where he also served as a lecturer, Elvino helped shape and inspire a new generation of legal professionals grounded in the values of democracy and the rule of law.

Throughout his career, he stood out as one of Mozambique’s most courageous voices for social justice and civil liberties, playing a vital role in both the legal and political spheres. As legal advisor to presidential candidate Venâncio Mondlane, Elvino became a prominent public figure during the highly contested 2024 general elections, fearlessly denouncing irregularities and advocating for transparency, legality, and respect for citizens’ political rights.

That unwavering commitment to truth and justice placed him under serious threat. Elvino received credible death threats, which he publicly denounced, warning of a planned assassination attempt targeting both himself and Mondlane. Tragically,

the threat materialized on October 19, 2024, in Maputo, when Elvino was assassinated in broad daylight by death squads, alongside Paulo Guambe, a senior official of the PODEMOS party.

His murder sent shockwaves throughout the nation and was met with widespread national and international condemnation. Human rights organizations, the Mozambican Bar Association, the Mozambican Judges Association, and the European Union all called for a swift, impartial, and thorough investigation to ensure that those responsible would be brought to justice. His killing has been widely recognized as a direct assault on the rule of law, democracy, and the dignity of legal professionals in Mozambique.

A Legacy of courage and integrity

Elvino Dias leaves behind an enduring legacy of ethical courage, truth-telling, and public service. His voice lives on through the causes he championed and the values he upheld—even at the cost of his life. His memory continues to inspire a new generation of defenders, lawyers, and citizens who believe in a just, free, and de-

mocratic Mozambique.

For all of this, the “Guardian of Justice” Award is posthumously presented to Elvino Bernardo António Dias, in eternal recognition of his life and unwavering struggle in defense of the Mozambican people and the principle of justice as the cornerstone of a democratic state.





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Almejamos um país livre e seguro para os Defensores dos Direitos Humanos, um ambiente favorável ao desenvolvimento das comunidades e ao envolvimento da juventude como potenciais Defensores dos Direitos Humanos.

We aspire to a nation where Human Rights defenders can operate freely and securely, fostering community development and empowering youth to become effective advocates for Human Rights.

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