



REDE MOÇAMBICANA DOS
DEFENSORES DE DIREITOS HUMANOS

RMDDH



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Trends and risks for human rights defenders in Mozambique

MONTHLY REPORT
August 2025



Executive Summary (August 2025)

In August 2025 the operating space for human rights defenders in Mozambique remained severely constrained: intimidation, assaults on journalists, interference with community media and an increasing use of the judicial system to target those who expose abuses. Unfounded prosecutions — often framed as “incitement,” “defamation” or “threats to state security” — are being used to create a climate of self-censorship and to wear down activists and organisations. The geographic and political isolation of defenders working in remote areas compounds these risks, while actors with ties to the State or security forces are increasingly implicated in directed threats.

Despite this worrying environment, a positive

development stands out: the growing leadership of women human rights defenders, who not only resist in high-risk contexts but are also renewing protection strategies and social-justice narratives from an intersectional perspective. RMDDH monitored and accompanied the most significant cases, activated protection mechanisms, provided legal assistance and developed faster, territorially-decentralized responses that allow for more rapid and context-sensitive emergency action. Ongoing training in physical, digital and legal security, together with the institutionalization of secure reporting channels, represents important progress compared with previous cycles.

Key incidents (selected)

- Persecution of an activist who denounced academic harassment (Montepuez): the activist and their family received threats and intimidation.
- Criminalization of those documenting abuses during peaceful demonstrations: RMDDH provided legal accompaniment to a young activist who assisted victims of police violence.
- Assaults on journalists during coverage of a public aircraft procurement: an episode that appears aimed at intimidating the press.
- Closure attempt and equipment seizure at a community radio station — administrative orders challenged before the Administrative Court.
- Alleged poisoning of a journalist visiting the country; laboratory tests abroad showed abnormal levels of heavy metals; RMDDH is following the case as a possible attempt at silencing.
- Trends and risks identified
- Increased judicialization and administrative instrumentalization to silence critical voices.
- Continued violence and impunity for attacks against defenders and journalists.
- Growing pressure on community media and local platforms for reporting abuses.
- Escalating risk to the physical integrity of activists, especially in isolated localities.

Conclusion and appeal

The events of August confirm a deterioration of the civic environment that, if not reversed, could entrench a cycle of institutionalized repression with serious consequences for democratic participation, freedom of expression and the protection of vulnerable groups. The risk that state violence becomes normalized is real in a context of

weak accountability and institutional complicity.

RMDDH reiterates its commitment to protection, documentation and advocacy, and calls for a coordinated response from national authorities and international partners to reverse the climate of impunity, guarantee the safety of defenders and preserve civic space in Mozambique.



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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.

EDITORIAL INFORMATION:

Property: RMDDH
President: Prof. Adriano Nuvunga
Editor: André Mulungo
Author: RMDDH
Layout: RMDDH

FINANCING PARTNERS



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PROJECTO

Pro-Cívico &
Direitos Humanos

projctmozd.org

Financed by:



SUOMI
FINLAND

Rua Dar-Es-Salaam, número 279, Bairro Sommerschild, Maputo - Moçambique

Email : info@redemoz-defensoresdireitoshumanos.org @RMDDH_Moz

Facebook: @RMDDHMoz redemoz-defensoresdireitoshumanos.org/ linkedIn: rmd dh

Contacto +258 857645056

[rmd dh_moz](https://www.instagram.com/rmd dh_moz)