



REDE MOÇAMBICANA DOS
DEFENSORES DE DIREITOS HUMANOS

RMDDH



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STRENGTHENING RIGHTS

MONTHLY REPORT — RMDDH September 2025

1. Context

Being a human-rights defender in Mozambique remains, for many, an act of courage. In September 2025 this commitment faced both new and continuing challenges: silent surveillance, attempts at intimidation, and a civic environment that—subtly or openly—continues to constrain those who protect community rights, the environment and human dignity.

This month, which also highlighted the importance of mental health, made clear the need to support defenders not only externally but also in their internal resilience, given the physical and emotional toll of their work.

In this complex setting, the Mozambican Network of Human Rights Defenders (RMDDH) stood with defenders, prioritising active listening, strategic protection and institutional coordination as concrete responses to situations of risk. This report documents that on-the-ground presence—attentive, solidaric and determined—through continuous monitoring, direct support and dialogue with key actors committed to justice and human rights.

Continuous monitoring of the situation of Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) is a vital RMDDH function, ensuring prompt response to violations and systematic recording of patterns of repression.

2. Reported Cases and RMDDH Interventions

2.1. Case — Moma, Nampula Province

A 21-year-old activist resident in Moma district, Nampula Province, was summoned for questioning at the District Prosecutor's Office on 28 August for alleged involvement in demonstrations in that district. His name had been mentioned by a person who had been shot during the protests — a person the activist

had helped and escorted to the district hospital.

Although no formal charge was filed, the activist was afraid to attend the hearing alone because he lacked a lawyer or public defender, placing him in a vulnerable position regarding his fundamental rights.

RMDDH intervention

The case was reported by RMDDH to the National Human Rights Commission (CNDH) through the Defenders Desk, and both organisations coordinated to secure legal assistance. The CNDH contacted the Bar Association (Ordem dos Advogados de Moçambique, OAM) and the Institute for Legal Aid and Judicial Assistance (IPAJ), and IPAJ provided a public defender in the Moma district.

2.2. Case — Cabo Delgado

A social activist and human-rights defender detained since 20 April 2025 in Cabo Delgado Province faced serious limitations in access to legal assistance. RMDDH reported the case to the CNDH on 26 August.

During the hearing it was confirmed that the activist had only been called to provide clarification and was not charged as a suspect. After confirming the facts reported by the injured party, the activist was released. To date, no criminal proceedings have been instituted against him; his rights were fully safeguarded thanks to the diligent, coordinated intervention by RMDDH and CNDH.

The activist was accused of alleged links to insurgent groups, detained by the Mozambican Police (PRM) and subjected to degrading conditions without access to a lawyer during the initial phase of the process.

RMDDH intervention

In these circumstances, RMDDH, in coordination with CNDH, pursued action with IPAJ to ensure appointment of a public defender. Regular prison visits were carried out and contacts were made with the Prison Directorate, IPAJ and the detainee's family to safeguard his fundamental rights.

This institutional follow-up aimed to secure effective access to justice in line with national and international human-rights standards. As a result of the monitoring and the absence of consistent evidence, the individual was returned to freedom on 18 September 2025.

2.3. Case of Persecution and Threat

During September, an incident of stalking and threats against a woman human-rights defender

was recorded. The matter remains under investigation and follow-up.

3. Observed Trends

Concrete support is the pillar of RMDDH's mission, ensuring the safety and continuity of HRDs' work. Throughout September, RMDDH maintained active coordination with multiple justice and human-rights institutions, consolidating dialogue and institutional cooperation.

Key trends observed include the legal narrowing of civic space, expressed through laws and practices that restrict legitimate human-rights defence. Such restrictions foster an environment conducive to intimidation, harassment and criminalisation of defenders, undermining their capacity to monitor, report and advocate for vulnerable communities.

A recurring pattern is arbitrary interpretation of the law by authorities, resulting in arbitrary detentions, baseless prosecutions and prior censorship. These dynamics weaken legal protections for HRDs, leaving them exposed to persecution and constant insecurity.

Another worrying trend is the criminalisation of defenders working on sensitive issues—environmental protection, climate justice, rights of local communities and government transparency. Legal constriction thus functions as a silencing instrument against inconvenient voices, undermining pluralism and the civic participation essential to a healthy democracy.



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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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