

# URGENT ACTION

## JOURNALISTS AND ACTIVISTS THREATENED

Local journalists and civil society activists have received anonymous death threats and intimidating phone calls and messages since 10 October. This began after their engagement in monitoring polling stations and publishing live municipal election results in Nacala-Porto and Nampula cities, Nampula province, in northern Mozambique.

**Antônio Lourenço Mutoua** a human rights defender and Executive Director of the organization Solidariedade Moçambique; **Júlio Paulino**, the Image and Communications Officer of Solidariedade Moçambique; **Arlindo César Severiano Chissale**, an independent journalist; **Aunício da Silva**, a newspaper editor; **two journalists** who prefer to stay anonymous due to security risks; priests **Father Benvindo Tapua** and **Father Cantifulas de Castro**, Director and Deputy Director of Radio Encontro respectively, have been receiving anonymous death threats, intimidating phone calls and other messages for their work around the municipal elections. The threats began after the municipal elections in Nampula Province on 10 October and the publication of election results on 12 October.

The intimidating phone calls and messages have contained warnings to “be careful” because “their days were numbered” and contained threats that they “would disappear without a trace”. The messages are blaming them for contributing to the defeat of the ruling party, Mozambique Liberation Front (FRELIMO), by organising individuals to monitor polling stations and publish live election results direct from polling stations.

The journalists and civil society activists had been involved in covering and monitoring the municipal elections.

### 1) TAKE ACTION

**Write a letter, send an email, call, fax or tweet:**

- Urging them to take immediate measures to end the continuing death threats and intimidation against these journalists and civil society activists and ensure their safety and protection and that of their families, in consultation with them;
- Calling on them to conduct thorough, impartial, independent and effective investigations into the death threats and intimidation against them and their families, and bring those suspected to be responsible to justice in trials which meet international standards of fairness;
- Calling on them to ensure a safe and enabling environment in which journalists, other media workers, activists and human rights defenders are able to carry out their work without fear of reprisals.

**Contact these two officials by 30 November 2018:**

Minister of Justice, Constitutional and Religious Affairs  
Joaquim Veríssimo  
Av. Julius Nyerere 33  
Maputo, Mozambique  
Fax: +258-21-494264  
**Salutation: Your Excellency**

Ambassador Carlos Dos Santos  
Embassy of the Republic of Mozambique  
1525 New Hampshire Avenue NW, Washington DC 20036  
Phone: 202 293 7146 | Fax: 202 835 0245  
Email: [embamoc@aol.com](mailto:embamoc@aol.com)  
**Salutation: Dear Ambassador**

### 2) LET US KNOW YOU TOOK ACTION

[Click here](#) to let us know if you took action on this case! *This is Urgent Action 186.18.*

Here's why it is so important to report your actions: we record the actions taken on each case—letters, emails, calls and tweets—and use that information in our advocacy.

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

In the past four years, journalists, government critics and dissenting voices have been subjected to intimidation, harassment, torture and enforced disappearances. Most of the attacks against them remain in impunity. To this day, the authorities have failed to adequately investigate the threats and attacks, and no one has been held accountable.

**Antônio Lourenço Mutoua**, a human rights defender and Executive Director of Solidariedade Moçambique, a national human rights organization, has been receiving death threats against him and his family since 11 October. Antônio Mutoua went into hiding after the continued death threats. In one of the last anonymous messages he received, he was threatened with the kidnap his children if he did not come out of hiding. Solidariedade Moçambique supports the work of community radios, including Radio Encontro, and it also participated on the live coverage of the municipal elections.

**Father Benvindo Tapua** and **Father Cantífulas de Castro**, Director and Deputy Director of Radio Encontro, have been receiving death threats since 12 October. Radio Encontro provided live coverage of the municipal elections, and their election observers were monitoring and publicly sharing information on the electoral process at the polling stations.

**Two journalists**, who prefer to stay anonymous, in Nacala-Porto city, Nampula province, have also been receiving death threats and intimidating anonymous phone calls after the release of municipal elections partial results on 12 October. On 15 October, the journalists filed a complaint at the district police station, but no measure has been taken to ensure their protection and to investigate the threats.

**Arlindo César Severiano Chissale**, an independent journalist in Nacala-Porto city, in Nampula province, received intimidating messages on 13 October, after publishing an article on the municipal elections in the local electronic newspaper *Pinnacle News*.

**Aunício da Silva**, editor of local weekly newspaper *Ikweli*, has been receiving death threats following his participation in the reporting on the released of the municipal elections partial results.

Name: Antônio Lourenço Mutoua, Arlindo César Severiano Chissale, Aunício da Silva, two journalists, Father Benvindo Tapua, Father Cantífulas de Castro and Júlio Paulino  
Gender m/f: m

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