

# URGENT ACTION

## END CRACKDOWN AGAINST YOUTH ACTIVISTS

Activists in Madagascar are being targeted in a crackdown against youth-led protests and activism, in violation of their rights to freedom of expression, association, and peaceful assembly. **Herizo Andriamanantena, Carine Rakotomanantoanina, Rija Andriamalala, and Nomena Elia Ratsihorimanana** are being arbitrarily detained on vague charges, while **Harnelle Rakotobe** and **Arimamy Todisoa** risk the same fate after having been subject to baseless accusations. Authorities must immediately release all those detained solely for exercising their human rights, and end the ongoing harassment, intimidation, threats and crackdown in the country.

### TAKE ACTION:

- Write a letter to the government official(s) listed. Use the sample letter below as a guide or use your own words.
- [Click here](#) to report your action(s) on **UA 33.26**. We share this number with the officials we are trying to persuade.

### President of the Refoundation of the Republic

**Michael Randrianirina**

Palais d'État d'Iavoloaha, Antananarivo 101, Madagascar

Email: [spprm@presidence.gov.mg](mailto:spprm@presidence.gov.mg)

*Send a copy of your letter to the address below*

**CC: Embassy of Madagascar in the United States  
Ambassador Solo Andry Lantosoa Rakotomalala**

2445 Wyoming Avenue, NW,  
Washington DC 20008

Email: [madagascar.embassy.dc@gmail.com](mailto:madagascar.embassy.dc@gmail.com)

Dear Michael Randrianirina,

I am deeply concerned by your government's intensifying campaign of repression against young activists and civil society members. This concern is evident in the cases of **Herizo Andriamanantena, Carine Rakotomanantoanina, Rija Andriamalala, and Nomena Elia Ratsihorimanana** who have been arbitrarily detained and charged under overly broad and misused "criminal conspiracy", "threat to national security", and "destabilization of the state" laws. **Harnelle Rakotobe** and **Arimamy Todisoa** have been threatened with the same fate.

These cases reflect a broader pattern of repression by the authorities that have been marked by intimidation, arbitrary detention and enforced disappearances. These authoritarian practices constitute clear violations of the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly, and are aimed at entrenching a climate of fear and silencing peaceful dissent.

I urge you to immediately and unconditionally release **Herizo Andriamanantena, Carine Rakotomanantoanina, Rija Andriamalala, and Nomena Elia Ratsihorimanana**, and all other activists detained solely for exercising their human rights - and end the threat of detention and prosecution of **Harnelle Rakotobe** and **Arimamy Todisoa**. I also urge you to end arbitrary arrests and politically motivated charges and to uphold everyone's human rights.

Yours sincerely,

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Madagascar's military authorities seized power in October 2025 following youth-led protests in 2025 demanding improved service delivery, particularly access to water and electricity, as well as more effective and inclusive governance.

On April 12, activist **Herizo Andriamanantena** was arrested after participating in a peaceful assembly on April 7 and youth-led protests held on April 10 and 11 in Antananarivo, calling for improved public service delivery in the country and for more inclusive and effective governance. He was being held at the Criminal Investigation Unit on vague charges of "criminal conspiracy" and "threats to national security." These vague charges are being used to criminalize the exercise of his rights to freedom of expression, association, and peaceful assembly. **Herizo Andriamanantena** was held incommunicado for three days, and his lawyers are now operating under constant surveillance, further raising serious concerns about his right to counsel. Meanwhile, **Harnelle Rakotobe** – who is the director of the NGO Ivorary, which works on good governance and human rights protection – has faced repeated intimidation by the cybercrime unit and military personnel linked to the presidency, and now risks the same fate as Herizo Andriamanantena. She is being accused among other things of receiving funds to finance President Michael Randrianirina's assassination, solely on the basis of her friendship with a relative of a former senator and for freely speaking about the country's transitional period. **Arimamy Todisoa** has also faced similar accusations.

The new authorities promised reforms but instead, [they have deepened repression](#), under the pretext of a zero tolerance anti-corruption campaign and used broadly framed charges of criminal conspiracy, threats to national security and destabilization to target and silence young activists, civil society members, and those linked to the previous regime. Two young activists who were previously detained at the Criminal Investigation Unit remain under guard at a hospital where they were taken for medical treatment, while the fate and whereabouts of two others arrested on the night of April 15 remain unknown.

**PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET:** French, Malagasy, or your own language.

**PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL:** July 21, 2026

**NAME AND PRONOUN:** Herizo Andriamanantena (he/his), Harnelle Rakotobe (she/her), Carine Rakotomanantoanina (she/her), Rija Andriamalala (he/him), Nomena Elia Ratsihorimanana (he/him), Arimamy Todisoa (he/him)