

I am writing to express my grave concern on eight journalists and civil society activists who have received anonymous death threats and intimidating phone calls and messages since 10 October, after their engagement in monitoring polling stations and publishing live municipal election results in Nacala-Porto and Nampula cities, Nampula province, in northern Mozambique.

They include 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.

I am urging the authorities 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.

They should 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.

I am 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.

Sincerely,