

URGENT ACTION

FARMER'S FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT RESTRICTED

Benedito Sabão was discharged from a private medical clinic on 10 June after spending 21 days receiving medical care. However, he is concerned for his safety and is unable to leave Mozambique as people believed to be members of the secret service police confiscated his documents when they detained him on 10 May. He is unable to meet his daily living costs in Maputo and has had to rely on the support of some local organizations.

With the support of some local organizations, such as the Human Rights League and Cáritas Mozambique, **Benedito Sabão** has been able to rent a house and cover his basic expenses. However, this support is temporary and he has no means to cover his expenses while in Maputo. Benedito Sabão would like to leave Mozambique because he fears that there could be continued persecution if he stays in the country but despite his desire to leave, this has not been possible as his travel documents were confiscated when he was detained on 10 May. Benedito Sabão, a subsistence farmer, was arbitrarily arrested, detained and shot by people suspected to be secret service police, for allegedly supporting Mozambican National Resistance (RENAMO), the main opposition party in Mozambique.

Benedito Sabão needs his documents to travel and the denial by authorities to give them back to him amounts to a limitation on his right to freedom of movement. The Mozambican government is in violation of article 12 of the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) which guarantees this freedom and which Mozambique has ratified.

Please write immediately in Portuguese, English or your own language:

- Urging the authorities to return Benedito Sabão's documents without further delay allowing him to exercise his right to freedom of movement, as guaranteed by article 12 of the ICCPR;
- Calling on them to end intimidation and harassment of Benedito Sabão because of his alleged political views;
- Calling on them to conduct an independent, thorough, impartial and effective investigation into the detention, allegations of ill-treatment and shooting of Benedito Sabão, and to bring those suspected to be responsible to justice.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 25 AUGUST 2016 TO:

Minister of Justice, Constitutional and Religious Affairs

Isaque Chande
Av. Julius Nyerere, 33
Maputo, Mozambique
Fax: +25821494264
Email: isaquechande@gmail.com

Salutation: Your Excellency

General Public Prosecutor

Beatriz Buchili
Av. Vladimir Lenine, 121
Maputo, Mozambique
Fax: +25821304299

Salutation: Dear General Public Prosecutor

And copies to:

President of the National Human Rights Commission

Custódio Duma
Av. Fernão de Magalhães, 63. 1st floor
Maputo, Mozambique
Email: comissao.direitos@gmail.com

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:

MR CARLOS DOS SANTOS, High Commission for the Republic of Mozambique, 21 Fitzroy Square, London, W1T 6EL Fax 020 7383 3801
Email sectorconsular@mozambiquehc.co.uk Salutation His Excellency

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the first update of UA 126/16. Further information:
<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr41/4099/2016/en/>

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Between 10 and 12 May 2016, Benedito Sabão was arbitrarily arrested, detained and shot by suspected secret service police, for allegedly supporting RENAMO, the main opposition party in Mozambique. He survived the attempt and received medical care in a private clinic in Maputo, the capital.

Filipe Nyussi of the Mozambique Liberation Front (FRELIMO), the ruling party, was sworn in as President on 15 January 2015, after winning 57% of the votes cast in October 2014.

Afonso Dhlakama, leader of RENAMO, the main opposition party, rejected the election outcome and boycotted the opening of the Parliament in January 2015. Throughout 2015, RENAMO campaigned for provincial autonomy in the central and northern regions, where the party claimed it had taken the majority of votes. In April 2015, Parliament rejected a bill put forward by RENAMO that aimed to formalize regional autonomy.

In September 2015, clashes between national armed forces and RENAMO's armed elements resumed following several months of post-electoral tension. On 13 September 2015, Afonso Dhlakama's convoy was hit by gunfire while he was campaigning in Manica province. The results of an investigation into the incident is still pending.

Tensions and clashes between government forces and armed elements of RENAMO have been causing an increasingly number of refugees fleeing to Malawi. An unknown number of people were reportedly killed by both sides. On 15 April 2016, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported that there are nearly 10,000 Mozambican asylum-seekers registered in Malawi.

Name: Benedito Sabão

Gender m/f: male

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