

PRESS RELEASE

PUBLIC LECTURE

New Authoritarianism, Civic Space and Human Rights Defending

Arnold Tsunga, Southern Africa Human Rights Defenders Network Chairperson and International Commission of Jurists Africa Director

In Mozambique, as is the situation around the world, women and men human rights defenders (W/HRDs) are under siege. Often subjected to a variety of sophisticated new and old forms of repression including inter alia, targeted violence and intimidation, frivolous lawsuits, stigmatisation, unjustified arrests and detention, surveillance and long incarcerations, enforced disappearances and extra-legal/judicial killings. Also, W/HRDs have been subject to sophisticated intelligence, impeding their mission.

Simultaneously, Mozambique is truly facing a shrinking of the democratic and civic spaces with implications on human rights. Facing common challenges, W/HRDs are coordinating efforts to increase the resilience and capacity to protect themselves from threats and risks associated to their work. It is in this context that the **Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD)** is coordinating the efforts with the conceptual support and technical guidance of the **Southern Africa Human Rights Defenders Network (SAHRDN)** for the establishment and strengthening of **Mozambique Network of Human Rights Defenders** since November 2019.

It is in this context that CDD is hosting a public lecture in partnership with N'weti and the SAHRDN – to promote the recognition of women and men human rights defenders as legitimate agents for social transformation – on the theme of “**New Authoritarianism, Civic Space and Human Rights Defending**” to be delivered by **Arnold Tsunga, Southern Africa Human Rights Defenders Network Chairperson and International Commission of Jurists Africa Director**.

The event will be attended by several personalities including remarks on the **Situation of Human Rights in Mozambique by Dr. Luís Bitone, President of the National Human Rights Commission**.

Your participation is highly appreciated.


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Date: **6th of March 2020**

Venue: **Anfiteatro da Universidade Politécnica, Maputo**

Time: **9H00 – 11H00**

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