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South African Journalists Released After Facing Torture in Mozambique



Two South African journalists, Bongani Siziba and Sbonelo Mkhasibe, faced a harrowing ordeal while reporting on Mozambique's escalating protests. Representing NewsCentral Africa TV, the journalists arrived in the country on Wednesday evening, November 13, joined by Mozambican journalist Charles Mangwiro, who was assisting them on the ground.

By Thursday morning, November 14, at 07:30 a.m.,

they were detained for allegedly filming the FRELIMO party headquarters—a target for protesters amid widespread demonstrations. They were taken to the Rapid Intervention Unit (UIR) headquarters, where they endured physical and psychological torture.

From 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. on the same day, Bongani and Sbonelo were blindfolded, denied access to the outside world, and held incommunicado.

Authorities reportedly sought forced confessions of their alleged connections to the protests.

Their ordeal lasted until the afternoon of Friday, November 15, when their freedom was secured through the intervention of the Center for Democracy and Human Rights (CDD). The journalists spent a night in fear and degrading conditions, with the female journalist particularly affected, lacking access to basic products for her feminine needs.

Silencing the Media: A Direct Assault on Democracy

This is more than a story of two journalists—it's a symbol of the growing repression in Mozambique. Detaining Bongani and Sbonelo is a blatant attack on press freedom, an attempt to suppress international scrutiny of a nation in crisis.

By targeting journalists, the authorities aim to muzzle the truth, fearing the power of objective reporting that exposes the voices of a nation crying out for justice, transparency, and democratic freedoms.

A Rallying Cry for Global Solidarity

The time to act is now. The international community, human rights defenders, and press freedom advocates must demand accountability and the immediate end to such oppressive tactics.



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This is not just about Bongani and Sbonelo. It's about defending the sacred role of the press—the lifeline of democracy. Without it, darkness prevails.

Let the world hear this: the truth cannot and will not be silenced.




Construindo uma sociedade democrática que promove, protege e respeita os Direitos Humanos.

Building a democratic society that promotes, protects, respect human rights & transform people's lives.

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