

# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC STATEMENT

Index: AFR 41/2361/2015

01 September 2015

## **Mozambique: Authorities must launch a full and impartial investigation into the killing of journalist**

Mozambican authorities must launch a prompt, thorough, independent and impartial investigation into the killing of Mozambican journalist Paulo Machava, said Amnesty International today.

Paulo Machava, who was the editor and the owner of the online newspaper *Diário de Notícias*, was shot dead by unknown gunmen on 28 August 2015 during his usual morning walk in a central neighborhood of Maputo.

The killing of journalist Paulo Machava - which may amount to an extrajudicial killing - is a sad day for journalism in Mozambique. This crime must be promptly investigated and the perpetrators must be found.

Mozambican authorities must get down to the bottom of Paulo Machava's killing and ensure that all those suspected of criminal responsibility for the crime are brought to trial. His death is worrying given that the freedom of the press and expression are already under threat in the country.

The gruesome murder Paulo Machava happened three days before the trial of economist Carlos Nuno Castel-Branco and newspaper editor Fernando Mbanze began on 31 August 2015 over a Facebook post criticising Mozambique's former president Armando Guebuza. The Facebook post dates back to November 2013.

Fernando Mbanze, the editor of the MediaFax newspaper, is charged with abusing freedom of the press under article 42 of the Press Law in conjunction with the State Security Law for publishing Carlos Nuno Castel-Branco's Facebook post as an open letter in the newspaper.

While Amnesty International welcomes the Mozambican Police's swift response to the murder of Paulo Machava, announcing that an investigation has been launched into the killing, the organization believes that such action should be thorough and a speedy one to bring perpetrators to justice.

Paulo Machava was a known and experienced journalist who previously worked for the state-owned *Rádio Moçambique* and the private newspaper Savana.

Mozambican authorities must reaffirm their commitment to protecting all Mozambicans by making sure that those who have killed Paulo Machava are found and brought to justice in a fair trial.

Mozambique has experienced several murders by gunmen this year, which may amount to the crime under international law of extrajudicial killing, including the killing of Gilles Cistac, constitutional law expert who was killed on 3 March 2015 by a group of gunmen in Maputo Central. His murder has not yet been resolved.

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