

Update - 15 December 2000

As the investigation about Carlos Cardoso's murder hasn't given any result yet, on 14 December, Salomao Moyano and Paulo Machava, respectively editor-in-chief and deputy editor of the weekly Savana, the main independent newspaper in Mozambique, received death threats by an anonymous phone call. They were told that they were on a list of 10 people to be killed because they are "involved in some affairs". Some MPs and businessmen are also on the list. All of them have been given police protection

November 23

Light must be shed on the murder of Carlos Cardoso

In a letter addressed to Joaquim Chissano, President of the Republic of Mozambique, Robert Ménard, Secretary General of Reporters Sans Frontières (Reporters Without Borders - RSF), an organization campaigning for press freedom worldwide, expressed his concern at the murder of Carlos Cardoso, journalist and owner of Metical, a independent daily, on 22 November 2000. Robert Ménard also urged President Chissano "to take all necessary measures to ensure that a full and independent investigation is carried out, its results are made public and the culprits are arrested and brought to justice". The Secretary General of the organization added that "light must be shed on this murder in order to bring trust back into media circles in Mozambique".

According to the information collected by RSF, Carlos Cardoso was shot dead late in the afternoon of 22 November, close to the office of Metical in Maputo. Two cars stopped in front of Carlo Cardoso's car. At least two men stepped out of the cars and shot the journalist many times in the head. Police stated that they have opened an investigation but no results have been made public so far. Carlos Cardoso was also a member of Juntos telacidade, an opposition party he represented at the Maputo local council. The causes of the murder remain unclear, Cardoso's relatives said he had no enemies and had not received any threat. Carlos Cardoso headed the official press agency from 1980 to 1988 and had set up Mediafax, the first independent newspaper in the early 90s before creating Metical in 1998.

RSF added that on 30 May 2000, the Ministry of Justice sent a summons to Carlos Cardoso to question him about his sources on a fraud case he had investigated, in contradiction with the 1981 press law. On 2 June, the journalist went to the Ministry of Justice but

refused to answer any question. While state broadcasting is often accused of lacking independence, the private press enjoys a lot of freedom.

RSF also condemns the attack on Custadio Rafael, a journalist with Radio Mozambique, in the evening of 22 November. As Custadio Rafael was on his way back home, he was attacked by three unidentified men, who beat him up and slashed his tongue, telling him he was "talking too much". He was left unconscious on the pavement. He was given eight stitches on the face and tongue in hospital. "The authorities must react quickly to stop this wave of threats and attacks, so that journalists can work in a safe environment", said Robert Ménard. RSF asks the Mozambican authorities to open an investigation, bring those responsible to justice and ensure journalists' safety.

<http://www.rsf.org/rsf/uk/html/afrique/cplp/lp/231100.html>