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Murdered Mozambican Economist Nominated for Transparency International Award

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As part of the campaign to force the Mozambican government to investigate the assassination of economist Antonio Siba-Siba Macuacua, a group of prominent Mozambicans has nominated him posthumously for the 2003 Integrity Award of the anti-corruption body Transparency International (TI).

Among those nominating Siba-Siba are: Mozambique's former first lady, Graca Machel; former finance minister Abdul Magid Osman; the country's best known writer, novelist Mia Couto; Supreme Court judge Norberto Carrilho; prominent journalists Salomao Moyana and Machado da Graca; and economists Roberto Tibana and Antonio Francisco.

A petition in support of the nomination (below) is now being circulated, and readers of this newsletter and other supporters of Mozambique are encouraged to sign.

Siba-Siba was the head of banking supervision at the Bank of Mozambique and became emergency chair of the privatised Austral Bank when it collapsed in April 2001 after fraud carried out by highly placed people. Siba-Siba attempted to recover bad debts, including some from senior people in government and in Frelimo. He also cancelled contracts signed by the previous board, including one in with Nyimpine Chissano, son of President Joaquim Chissano, who was paid \$3000 per month despite his lack of experience in banking.

On 11 August 2001, unknown assailants murdered Siba-Siba as he worked in his office on the top floor of the Austral headquarters and threw his body down the stairwell. The nominees for the TI award say that the murder of Siba-Siba "was meant to send a signal that organized crime was very much in control." They note that "there are no indications of firm steps being taken by the authorities to seriously investigate, find the suspected killers and their masters, and subject them to trial. On the contrary, many people are still being subjected to pressure and made fearful of

continuing the call for justice."