



**Minister Helena Kida**

Minister of Justice  
Av. Julius Nyerere 33  
Maputo, Mozambique  
Email: [mjcr@mjcr.gov.mz](mailto:mjcr@mjcr.gov.mz)

**Ambassador Carlos Dos Santos**

Embassy of the Republic of Mozambique  
1525 New Hampshire Avenue NW, Washington DC 20036  
Phone: 202 293 7146 I Fax: 202 835 0245  
Email: [washington.dc@embamoc.gov.mz](mailto:washington.dc@embamoc.gov.mz)  
Salutation: Dear Ambassador

7<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Re: The Case of Josina Ziyaya Machel, a Women's Human Rights Defender (WHRD) and founder of the Kuhluka Movement

Dear Minister Helena Kida,

Dear Ambassador Carlos Dos Santos,

We the undersigned, as members of Community Voices for Peace and Pluralism – Africa (CVPP) a network of African women professionals providing services in preventing, transforming and solving violent conflict around the world, write to you concerning the case of Josina Ziyaya Machel, a Women's Human Rights Defender (WHRD) and founder of the Kuhluka Movement, a non-profit initiative working to end gender-based violence (GBV).

On 17 October 2015, Josina Machel was brutally assaulted by her then partner, Rofino Licuco. The assault resulted in the loss of sight in her right eye. In February 2017, the Ka-Pfumu Municipal District Court convicted her attacker for the crimes of serious physical and psychological violence, under articles 246(b), 171 (e) and 247(i) of the Mozambican Penal Code. Rofino Licuco was sentenced to three years and four months of detention, which was suspended under the condition of damages amounting to 2,800,000 USD.

On 12 June 2020 the 2nd Criminal Appeal Section of the Judicial Court of Maputo's City overturned the guilty verdict on the grounds that there were no eyewitnesses to corroborate the incidents of physical and psychological aggression and that the medical evidence presented could not exclude the possibility of Josina Machel's injury to be a result of a 'simple fall' or 'blunt object'. On 5 August 2020, Josina Machel filed an appeal to the Supreme Court against the decision. The Supreme Court is due to rule on the appeal.

In the aftermath of the October 2015 attack, Josina Machel was subject to a campaign of intimidation and harassment aimed at preventing her from bringing a court case against Rofino Licuco for the assault she suffered. She was followed by unidentified men through Maputo and received intimidating calls, including evening calls from Rofino Licuco himself to warn her that he was aware that she was alone at home. In July 2016, the windows of her friend's car were broken while they were in a restaurant in downtown Maputo, and a threatening note was left inside the car. On 12 August 2020, Josina Machel received a letter from Rofino Licuco's lawyers warning her to stop referring to him and using his name in any way.

We urge you to ensure an impartial and independent trial, that meets international standards of fairness, is applied at the appeal stages; ensure a safe and supportive environment for Josina Machel so that she can carry out her work and is able to live without fear of attacks, intimidation and harassment; and take immediate measures to promptly, independently and impartially investigate the threats and intimidation tactics employed against Josina Machel in an effort to silence her.

Yours sincerely,

<b>Name</b>	<b>Country</b>
A O	Kenya
Abla Gadegbeku Williams	Liberia
Adah Mbah Muyang	Cameroon
Agatha Alidri	Uganda
Alex Shoebridge	Australia
Alice Nderitu	Kenya
Allen Aaron Nxumalo	Republic of South Africa
Amer Ruben	South Sudan
Amina Ahmed	Nigeria
Amina Hersi	Kenya
Aminatou Saher	Cameroun
Angela Cassell Bush	Liberia
Anna Samulski	United States
Anna Tonelli	USA
Asaaska Labarakwe	Kenya
Astou Sillah	Sénégal
Audrey Adhiambo	Kenya
Bafana Khumalo	South Africa
Basetsana Kumalo	South African
Batamuliza Naila	N/A
Beatrice Kamau	Kenya
Bunie	South Afrika
Carmen Mpelwane	South Africa
Caroline Makumbe	South Africa
Catherine Vincent	NIGERIAN

Chafiaa Djouadi	Algeria
Charles	Zimbabwe
Chidinma Uchechi Iroanya	Nigeria
Christine Mutimura	Rwanda
Christine Tamukedde	Uganda
Chue Goah Roberts	Liberia
Claudia	South africa
Colani Hlatjwako	Eswatini
Cuthbert Musarurwa	Zimbabwe
Diana Demba-Mutondo	Chad
Dianah Bedell-Majekodunmi	Liberia
Diye Ba	Mauritania
Doreen Nkala	Zimbabwe
Dorothy Goredema	Zimbabwe
Dr Fulata Moyo	Malawi
Dr. Mwajuma Kadilu	United Republic of Tanzania
Driciru Lilly Mary Sr.	Uganda
Elisabeth Agbor-Tabi	USA
Elizabeth Lwanga	Uganda
Ellyjoy	Kenya
Eltahra	Sudan
Emelyne Muhorakeye	Burundi
Emem Bassej	Nigeria
Emna Ben Abdelhamid	Tunisie
Esther Omam	Cameroon
Eunhye Lee	South Korea
Evelyn Letooane	Lesotho
Evelyn Ongige	Kenya
Fatima Outaleb	Morocco
Fatima Suleiman	Nigeria
Fatma Messaoud	Algerien
Fatma Messaoud	Algérie
Felistas Joseph	Tanzania
Flaviana Charles	Tanzania
Florence Mpaayei	Kenya
Fozia Dangor	South Africa
Gail	United States of America
Gemma Ndayishinguje	Burundi
Gladys Mbuya	Cameroon
Gopolang Ngale-Lekgetha	South Africa
Gratias	DRC
Hasna Barkat	Djibouti

Hibaa Ismael	Djibouti
Huda	Canada
Ialice Kachere	Malawi
Immaculate Tusingwire	Uganda
Irene Fredriksson	Finland
Irene Garoes	Namibia
Iva Garridi	Mozambique
Jacinta Nwaka	Nigeria
James Bidal	South Sudan
Janah Ncube	Zimbabwe
Joaquim Oliveira Mucar	Mozambique
June Josephs	South Africa
Kei Emmanuel Duku	South Sudan
Khadija Elmadmad	Morocco
Kijala Shako	Kenya
Kunyalala Maphisa	South Africa
Ladi Madaki	Nigeria
Leila Akahloun	United States of America
Lenina Rassool	South Africa
Leonie	Rwanda
Lillian Kobusingye	Uganda
Lucinda Evans	South Africa
Lucy Muyoyeta	Zambia
Magda Zenon	Cyprus
Mahmoud Sherif Elbanhawy	Egypt
Mandiedza Parichi	Zimbabwe
Marjon Kamara	Liberia
Mary Vuningoms Balikungeri	Rwanda
Masciline Nyanda	Zimbabwe
Maureen Samulela	Zambia
Mavic Cabrera-Balleza	Philippines
Mbabazi Zakhia	Rwanda
Michael Onyango	Kenya
Millicent Otieno	Kenya
Mireille Tushiminina	DRC
Mohamed Said El Banhawy	Egypt
Mohga Kenawy	Egypt
Mpeo Mahase-Moiloa	Lesotho
Mwangala Matakala	Canada
Mzikazi Nduna	South Africa
Nabou Fall	Sénégal
Namatama Sakabilo	Zambia

Nana Adjoa Amamoo	Ghana
Nanfuka Zulaika	Uganda
Naomi Gichuru	Kenya
Natalie Bracco	United States
Nawal Khidir Nasr Alamin	Sudan
Nazek Abaza	Egypt
Nimo Ali	Kenya
Nimo Mogamed	Kenya
Nina Forgwe	Cameroon
Nuria Abdullahi	Kenya
Omam Esther	Cameroon
Oswald Moyo	Zimbabwe
Pamela Chemelil	Kenyan
Patricia Nyaundi	Kenya
Paula Itoo	South Sudan
Paula Monjane	Mozambique
Philile Ntuli	South Africa
Pille Tsopp-Pagan	Estonia
Poorvi Chitalkar	Canada
Prabha Sankaranarayan	India
Precious Timba	Zambia
Rabeharisoa Saraha	Madagascar
Ramatu Abarshi	Nigeria
Reem Abbas	Sudan
Regina Mutiru Mwendwa	Kenya
Rev. Franklyn C. Harwood	South Africa
Rita Martin Lopidia	South Sudan
Riya Williams Yuyada	South Sudan
Rose Mulaah Wasike	Kenya
Rosemary Were	Kenya
Sahaletou Yelebo	United States
Salim Musa Umar	Nigeria
Salwa Abdusalam	South Sudan
Samia El Hashmi	Sudan
Sarah	South Sudan
Sarah Abeja	South Sudan
Sarah Pelham	United Kingdom
Sellah King'Oro	Kenya
Shamsi Kazimbaya	Rwanda
Shamsia W. Ramadhan	Kenya
Shiru Nyingi	Kenya
Shukria Dini	Somalia

Sidi	Niger
Sidwell Mokgothu	South Africa
Soad Shalaby	Egypt
Solomon Faris	Ethiopia
Solomuzi Mabuza	South Africa
Sophie Havyarimana	Burundi
Stella Mystica Sabiiti	UGANDA
Susan Jeptanui	Kenya
Susan Owiro Chege	Kenya
Sworo Paul Duku	South Sudan
Sylvie Ndongmo	Cameroon
Tambudzai Ngoro	South Africa
Tecla Namachanja Wanjala	Kenya
Tendani	South Africa
Twegyesiibwe Goret	Uganda
Uwimana Nadia	Burundi
Vaiba Kebeh Flomo	Liberia
Vainola	South Africa
Vickenzie Gifty Ofei	Ghana
Victoria	palestine
Wasye Musyoni	Kenya/Sudan
Wendy Luhabe	South Africa
X	Zimbabwe
Zahra Langhi	Libya
Zelpha Ingasiah	Kenya