

Embargoed until 13:00 or 1:00 pm CAT, 22 June 2023

Wellington, New Zealand, 22 June 2023

Human rights in Mozambique

New data released today show the extent of human rights violations in Mozambique.

The Human Rights Measurement Initiative's 2023 data show that human rights continue to be neglected by Mozambique's government. The government is not adequately protecting people from violence or ensuring the full enjoyment of human rights for people in Mozambique.

Mozambique's performance on economic and social rights has slowly improved overall but is still far from what the country could achieve at its level of income to protect the rights to **education, food, health, housing, and work**. Experts on human rights in Mozambique cite a lack of access to social services and inflation as reasons for people not enjoying their economic and social rights.

Mozambique scores 4.2 out of 10 when it comes to the right to be **safe from the state**, suggesting that **many people in Mozambique are not safe** from one or more of the following: arbitrary arrest, torture and ill-treatment, forced disappearance, execution or extrajudicial killing.

Mozambique scores 4.0 out of 10 on **empowerment** rights, suggesting that **many people are not enjoying their civil liberties and political freedoms**. All three of the government's empowerment rights scores fall in the 'bad' to 'very bad' range, and the country is performing **worse than average** in our sample of 30 countries.

Human rights experts identified **human rights advocates, journalists, protesters, and people with opposing political opinions** to the government as being especially at risk of violations of their civil and political rights, among other groups. The authorities restricted anyone opposing the government, especially in Cabo Delgado.

HRMI Global Spokesperson Thalia Kehoe Rowden said, "Mozambique consistently scores among the lowest in our sample of countries regarding civil and political rights. It's clear from what human rights experts in Mozambique have reported that opposing the government or asking for better conditions can lead to a range of human rights violations. Mozambique has a very good score for the right to primary education, which shows that the country is capable of reaching its potential when it prioritises an area of basic rights."

Kehoe Rowden said, 'All people in Mozambique deserve to have all their human rights protected by their government. HRMI's scores, based on both local reporting and international databases, show that the government is currently not keeping the promises it has made under international law.'

—END—

About the Rights Tracker: The Rights Tracker is a global project to track the human rights performance of countries systematically. Our 2023 dataset launched today includes annual data on eight civil and political rights for up to 44 countries from the years 2017 to 2022, with Bangladesh, Thailand, and the Maldives added this year. Our data also include inaugural scores on the right to freedom of religion and belief in a pilot set of nine countries. Annual data on five economic and social rights for 196 countries from 2007 to 2020, based on the award-winning SERF Index methodology, is also available. Please visit rightstracker.org for the freely available dataset.

About HRMI: The Human Rights Measurement Initiative (HRMI) is an independent non-profit organisation part of a global movement building a world where all people can flourish. We track the human rights progress of countries, producing robust data that anyone can use to push for improvements in how governments treat people. What gets measured gets improved: if something isn't being systematically measured, it can be more easily overlooked and undervalued. HRMI data make it easier for decision-makers to monitor their progress, and prioritise human rights. Advocacy based on sound information is one of the key drivers of change. www.humanrightsmeasurement.org

For media inquiries, please contact:

Thalia Kehoe Rowden

Strategy and Communication Lead, and Global Spokesperson:

thalia.kehoerowden@hrmi.ngo