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Prosecutor General of the Republic
Américo Julião Letela
Av. Vladimir Lenine nr. 121
Maputo
Mozambique

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Dear Prosecutor General,

**I am writing to you to express my concern about the enforced disappearance of journalist and politician Arlindo Chissale (46), and the lack of any public communication from the authorities about the start or progress of any investigation into his case or the failure to reveal his fate and whereabouts.**

On 7 January, Arlindo Chissale left his home in Pemba, Cabo Delgado for Nacala, Nampula. According to his family, his wife was the last to communicate with him at around 5pm, when he was in the Silva Macua village. Witnesses saw Arlindo Chissale being removed from the public minibus he was in and taken away by a group of men, three of whom were dressed in military uniforms at around 5:30pm. Witnesses then told his family they saw him being beaten and forced into a second vehicle, a white car with no license plates. Arlindo Chissale has not been seen since.

On 16 January, his family filed a complaint with the authorities at the 2nd Police Station of the Republic of Mozambique (PRM) in Pemba, Cabo Delgado. On 29 January, the Media Institute for Southern Africa - MISA Mozambique, asked the Ministries of Defense and Interior to clarify, with the utmost urgency, the alleged involvement of agents of the Defense and Security Forces (members of the PRM and military) in Arlindo’s Chissale's enforced disappearance. On 8 February, his family reported that his phone had been switched on. When the family called, the call went through, but no one answered. The next day, on 9 February, the phone was turned off. On 10 February, the spokeswoman for the PRM in Cabo Delgado province had confirmed that Arlindo Chissale's case had been forwarded to the Public Prosecutor's Office and the Criminal Investigation Service (SERNIC). However, the spokesman for SERNIC in Cabo Delgado later revealed that he had not received any letter relating to Arlindo Chissale's case.

**I call on you to ensure that Arlindo Chissale’s enforced disappearance is promptly, thoroughly, independently, impartially, transparently and effectively investigated with his fate and whereabouts disclosed. Anyone suspected to be responsible should be brought to justice in fair trials. Authorities must follow up all existing leads to publicly clarify where Arlindo Chissale is, and how and why he was forcibly disappeared.**

Yours sincerely,

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**Copie**

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