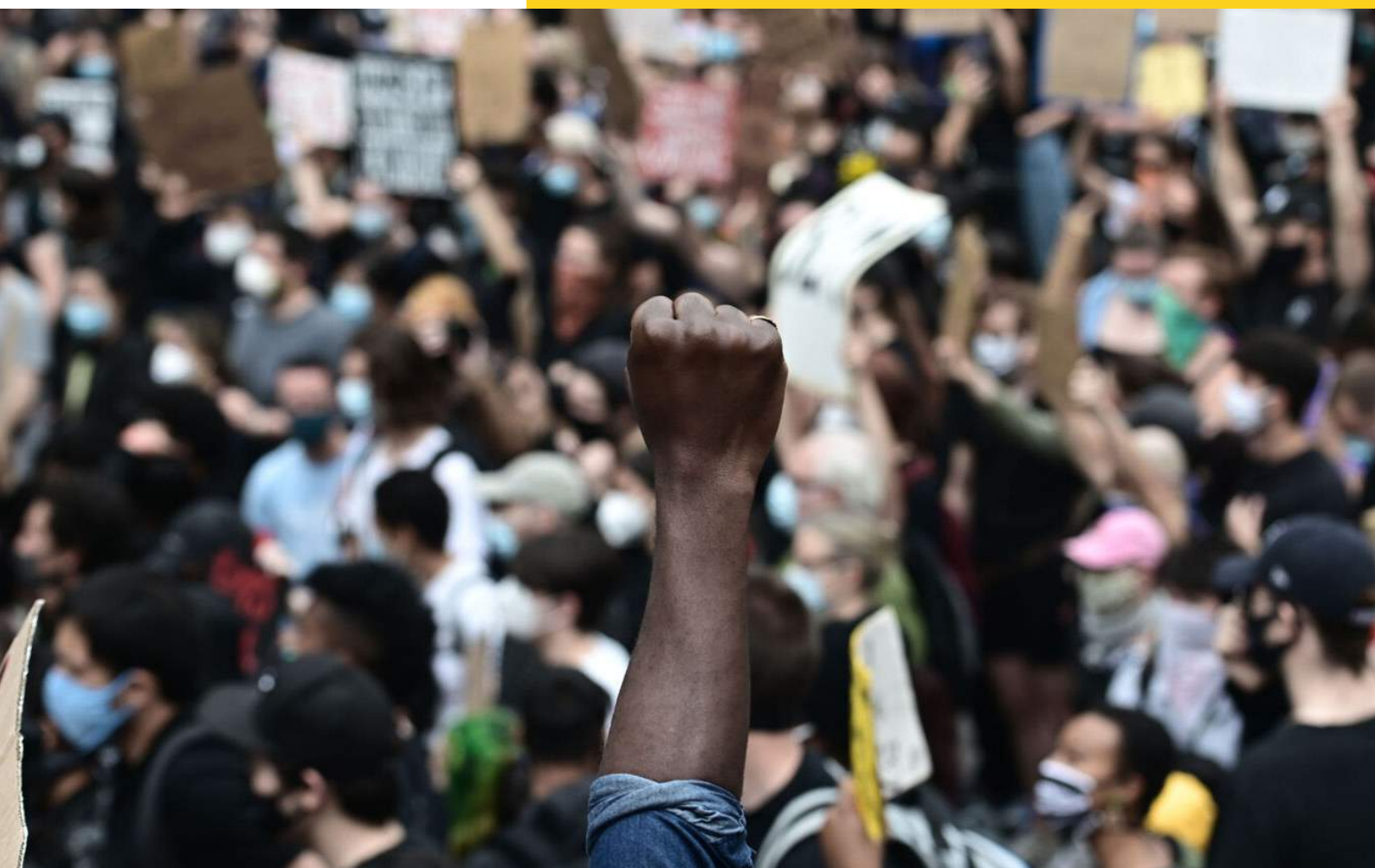




Process Report

2020 Southern Africa Human Rights Defenders Regional Summit



**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



**ADVANCING RIGHTS
IN SOUTHERN AFRICA**
ARISA

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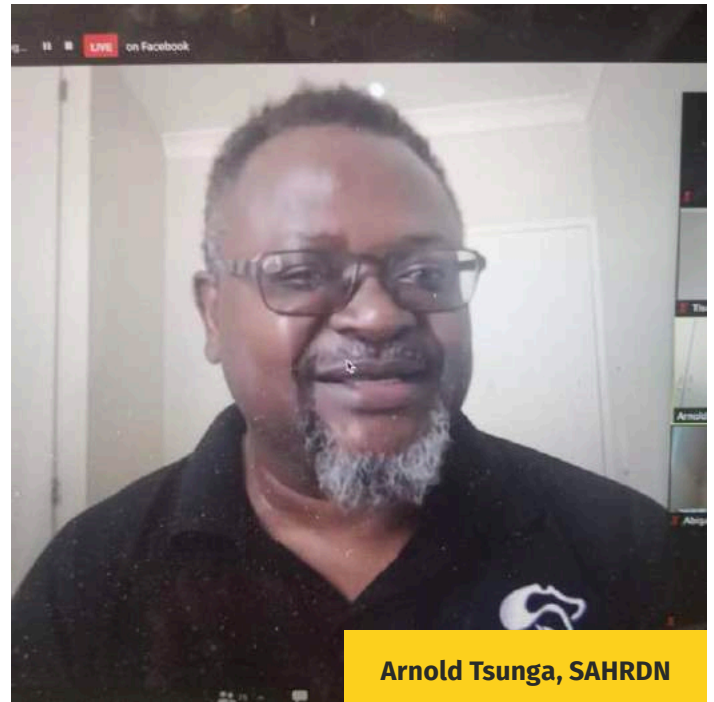
Introduction

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic related restrictions on travel and public gatherings, the annual Southern Africa Human Rights Defenders summit was held virtually, from December 1-2, 2020. The summit was jointly organized by the Southern Africa Human Rights Defenders Network (SAHRDN) in collaboration with Amnesty International, Advancing Rights in Southern Africa (ARISA) and the Office for the High Commissioner for Human Rights Regional Office for Southern Africa (OHCHR-Southern Africa) under the theme “Building Back Better: Expanding the Civic Space and Enhancing Resilience of Human Rights Defenders During and Post COVID-19 - A special focus on womxn and traditionally marginalized groups”. Over 100 delegates from across the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) region attended the summit. The invitation to the summit was targeted to a variety of audiences such as Human Rights Defenders (HRDs), Human Rights Organisations (HROs), civil society representatives, National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), regional and international mechanisms and various other stakeholders. At the heart of the summit agenda was the imperative to provide a safe space for participants to identify innovative, scalable, sustainable and evidence-based action ideas to push back the rising phenomenon of authoritarianism, expand the civic space, and enhance agency and resilience of HRDs in complex contexts where tested approaches are difficult to find and cannot guarantee results, more so in the times of COVID-19 pandemic.

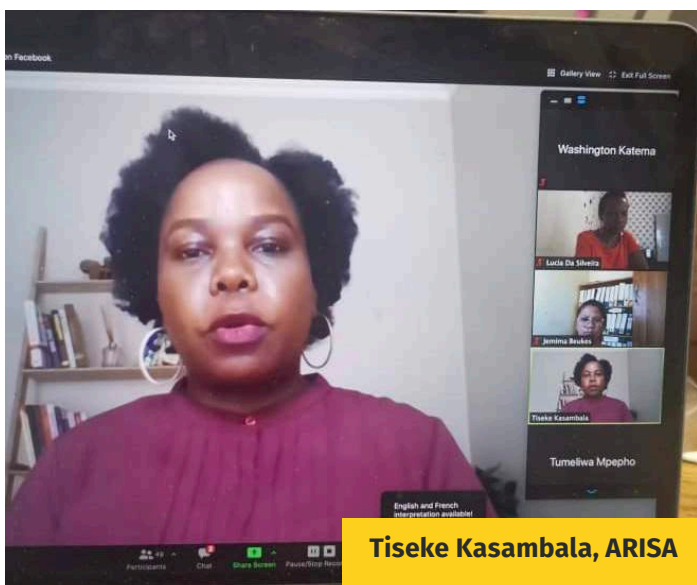
WELCOME REMARKS

On behalf of the summit organizers, welcome remarks were delivered by Arnold Tsunga (SAHRDN), Tiseke Kasambala (ARISA), Deprose Muchena (Amnesty International) and Abigail Noko (OHCHR-Southern Africa).

Arnold Tsunga congratulated SAHRDN and its collaborating partners for organizing the summit, notwithstanding the restrictive conditions necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic. He recalled the developments leading to the establishment of SAHRDN by highlighting that it began as a network of various organisations who were working together on an ad-hoc basis, to promote human rights and protect human rights defenders (HRDs). Tsunga said, with the support from development partners, including the Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa (OSISA), these organisations were able to conduct a strategic reflection process in 2017, which culminated in the development of a strategic plan that facilitated a transition from an “ad-hoc network” to an “institutionalized network” of HRDs. In 2018, with support from OSISA, SAHRDN was registered as an organisation, employed staff and began to implement programs targeted at providing holistic support to vulnerable HRDs at risk.



Tsunga noted that the 2020 summit was being held in a political context where democracy is regressing, and authoritarianism is on the rise in many countries in Africa. Tsunga cited electoral violence in Uganda, political repression in Zimbabwe, sham elections in Tanzania and Ivory Coast as examples. As a result, Tsunga observed that civic space across the continent has shrunk further in 2020, as evidenced by crackdown by governments against peaceful protests and persecution of human rights defenders. He also noted the emergence of private actors (such as big commercial corporates) who are working with repressive governments and are extracting Africa’s resources, without promoting any meaningful local development. Tsunga also observed that these corporates are engaged in serious human rights violations ranging from arbitrary evictions, murder and environmental degradation.



Tiseke Kasambala thanked the delegates for their resilience during 2020. She reflected on the developments since SAHRDN held its last summit in 2019 and noted that a lot has changed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Kasambala said ARISA will always support the “voices and activism of human rights defenders”, particularly in defense of the rights of the vulnerable and marginalized groups in the region. She noted that, it is these marginalized groups who bear the brunt of the COVID-19 pandemic most and the

repressive state responses to the pandemic. She thanked development partners for supporting SAHRDN and ARISA's work in pushing against growing repression in the region. Kasambala thanked particularly the USAID and OSISA. She noted that in 2020, civic space had shrunk as a result of draconian restrictions imposed by some governments, on the rights to peaceful assembly, freedom of expression and peaceful protest. Kasambala observed that this worsened with the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic when some governments used this pandemic as an excuse for imposing even more draconian restrictions on these human rights.

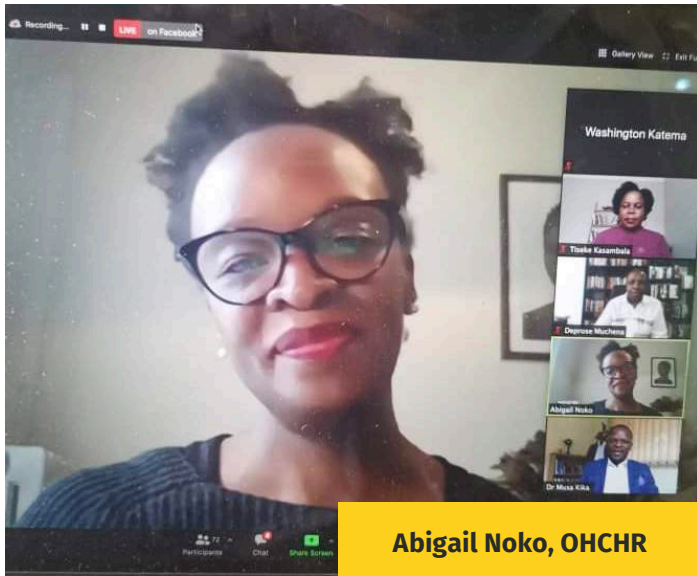
Deprose Muchena began his remarks by indicating that Amnesty is pleased to collaborate with the SAHRDN in defense of human rights during this difficult period of the COVID-19 pandemic. Muchena expressed gratitude for the resilience that has been demonstrated by ordinary people and human rights defenders, in the face of the dangers and restrictions emanating from the COVID-19 pandemic.

He also observed that COVID-19 amplified pre-existing inequalities as evidenced by poverty and unemployment. Muchena noted that most states took a "public health approach" in their responses to the pandemic and a "militant, combative state" emerged in Southern Africa as countries adopted a language of war in their responses to the pandemic. He recounted that the SADC region has 6 countries that declared states of emergencies and 6 that declared states of disaster. Other 2 instituted mixed-bag curfews. The measures introduced in response to the pandemic amounted to "state overreach" and were largely about "regime consolidation" rather than securing the health and welfare of the people, said Muchena. The measures also led to a direct attack on people's livelihoods especially when lockdowns were imposed. Hunger, food insecurity and poverty are on the rise, as a result. Notwithstanding that this was a global pandemic, most state responses in the region exhibited "exhausted nationalism" as they were internally focused rather than being based on the principle of international cooperation.

Muchena also observed that globally, there is no equitable approach to recovering from the pandemic, as evidenced by attempts by some countries in the global north to hoard the COVID-19 vaccine. He lamented that SADC is not demonstrating strong leadership in demanding equal access to the vaccine or in investing in the development of a vaccine and other treatments. He also called upon the summit to reflect on the impact of the pandemic on womxn as they have "received double jeopardy" as they have been "locked down in the context of domestic violence, social exclusion and economic marginalization". Muchena called for a gendered approach to analyzing the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on human rights.

Abigail Noko argued that paying special focus on womxn and marginalized groups is very important because the COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the historical inequalities affecting these groups. The COVID-19 pandemic has led to an increase in violence against womxn and girls, deepening inequalities and marginalization of these groups who were already marginalized prior to the pandemic. She also reminded the summit to not forget other pandemics such as HIV/AIDS.





public affairs, because of the high economic cost of data, unavailability of internet connection to some groups, restrictions on the digital space and cyber-bullying. She indicated that the OHCHR Southern Africa conducted a study on civic space in Southern Africa, which would be shared with summit participants. She drew the summit's attention to the UN guidelines on the protection and promotion of civic space and urged the summit to engage with these.

Noko observed that as states try to curb the pandemic, they have introduced unjustified restrictions on human rights including the right to freedom of expression, access to information, freedom from arbitrary arrests and detentions. She also noted that, alongside the COVID-19 pandemic, a "gendered pandemic" emerged characterized by a massive increase in gender-based violence against womxn and girls. In response to this, Noko said the OHCHR's message to these womxn and girls is "we hear you; we see you; we believe you". It is very important to harness the collective efforts, especially of womxn human rights defenders and make sure that their voices are heard, and their concerns are addressed as a matter of priority.

Noko also noted that the COVID 19 pandemic has led to restrictions on people's ability to participate in



Keynote Addresses

Keynote speakers were Professor Mary Lawlor (United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders) and Hon. Timothy Mtambo (Minister of Civic Education and National Unity, Government of Malawi). Professor Adriano Nuvunga delivered Hon. Mtambo's remarks.



Ms. Mary Lawlor, UN

The UN Special Rapporteur Mary Lawlor indicated that part of her mandate is to raise issues regarding the targeted persecution of human rights defenders by governments. She recounted stories of persecution and murder of human rights defenders from Southern Africa. She paid special attention to the most vulnerable human rights defenders including those working on the rights of women, children, persons with disabilities, LGBTQ, refugees and migrants.

She observed that the COVID-19 pandemic has left human rights defenders vulnerable because they are now restricted in certain locations and cannot reach places of safety, and they work online where they can be tracked and monitored by repressive governments. Threats against human rights defenders have increased especially with the increase in human rights violations by governments during the COVID-19 pandemic. These violations include death threats, arbitrary arrests and arbitrary detentions. Mary Lawlor also indicated that a lot of human rights defenders have been persecuted for criticizing state responses to the pandemic, while some are persecuted simply for exposing the truth that is otherwise concealed by states in their responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. She encouraged defenders to realize that their work is so valuable, notwithstanding the demonization they suffer

as some governments attempt to de-legitimize their work. She pointed out that, as UN Special Rapporteur, she is the bridge between human rights defenders and governments and she would not tire to remind governments of their responsibility to respect, protect and promote the rights of human rights defenders.

Hon. Mtambo argued that it is not easy to be a human rights defender, but it is the noblest form of service to humanity. He said he considers himself to be an ambassador of the human rights defenders' network, even in his current political role. He undertook, as a cabinet minister, to work towards the protection of human rights defenders and civic space as his priority, and to work with all stakeholders, including civil society. He stated that he has reminded the Malawian government which he as a member of, that their duty is to protect rather than to suppress human rights.



He lamented the tendency by authoritarian governments to take advantage of the COVID-19 pandemic to close civic space. In the face of these challenges, Hon. Mtambo encouraged civil society to continue holding governments accountable on the protection of civic space. He ended his remarks by declaring that the government of Malawi is committed to supporting the work of human rights defenders in Malawi and that it would do this by way of enacting and implementing good laws.



PANEL DISCUSSION

Navigating the shrinking civic and democratic space during COVID-19

The panelists for this discussion were Siphosami Malunga (OSISA), Roland Ebole (Amnesty International), Professor Adriano Nuvunga (Centre for Democracy and Development-Mozambique), Irene Petras (International Center for Not-for-Profit Law) and Leah Mitaba (Zambia Council for Social Development). Otto Saki (Ford Foundation) was the moderator for the session. The following are the key issues that were raised during the panel discussion:

- I. Lockdowns imposed by states in response to the COVID-19 pandemic provided an opportunity for some governments to close down civic and political space. Public gatherings were prohibited, and movements were restricted. This posed serious challenges to human rights defenders, as they could not carry out their work.
- II. Restrictions on public gatherings and human movements left the digital space as the only platform upon which human rights defenders could organize. However, authoritarian regimes began to impose restrictions and increased online surveillance, thereby undermining and shutting down the digital space.
- III. Corruption and state capture increased under the cover of lockdowns.
- IV. Countries like Uganda passed a number of public health laws or rules that are being used to shut down civic space by undermining freedom of expression, freedom of peaceful assembly and freedom of association.
- V. In Tanzania the President has declared the country to be COVID-19 free and the State has come up with strict laws that punish anyone who provides any information on the pandemic or expresses views which contradict government's policy positions.
- VI. There are targeted attacks against marginalised human rights defenders. For example, in Uganda, COVID-19 measures have been used to target womxn human rights defenders in the western regions, who have been fighting for communal rights to land or speaking against forced evictions.
- VII. Human rights defenders who challenge government decisions have also been victimised. For instance, in Uganda Dr. Stella Nyanzi and Linah Zedriga were arrested and detained for challenging police abuse of COVID-19 restrictions on public gatherings.
- VIII. There has been exclusion of womxn from governments' responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- IX. Some pockets of the region are politically unstable, particularly northern Mozambique (Cabo Delgado) where many human rights atrocities are taking place. Human rights work is becoming almost impossible to undertake in the area. There are various human rights abuses taking place in Cabo Delgado, including forced evictions of indigenous communities to pave way for mining operations. Human rights defenders are being victimised by non-state actors who are perpetrating these abuses. Some human rights defenders have received death threats, others killed and some have had to flee from their homes.
- X. The region is still daunted by the problem of child marriages which is contributing to high levels of gender based violence and other social vices. In most cases, the reason for early marriages is high levels of poverty as these girls are given into marriage in exchange for money and other gifts.
- XI. Democracy is backsliding in many countries, including Zambia where freedom of assembly has virtually been suspended.



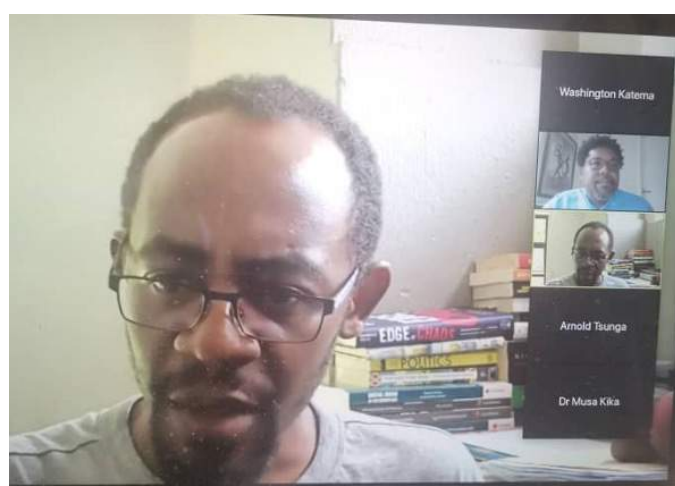
Siphosami Malunga



Irene Petras



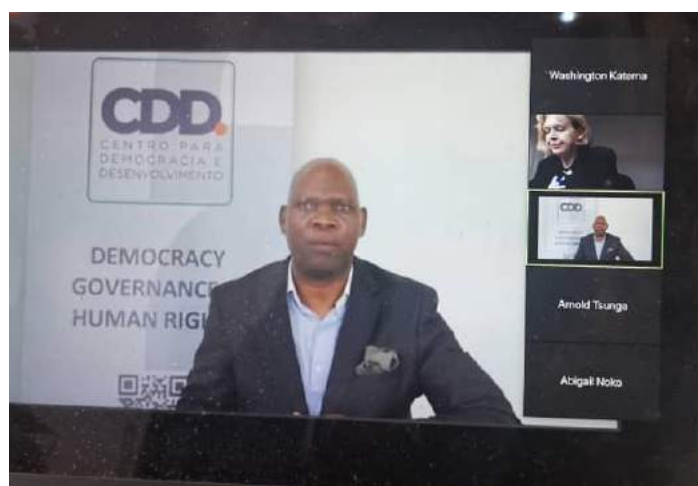
Ronald Ebole



Otto Saki



Leah Mitaba



Prof Adriano Nuvunga

Assessing the impact of COVID-19 on womxn human rights defenders

Panelists in this discussion were Jemina Beukes (Namibian Sun), Ferosa Zacarias, FORCOM (Forum das Radios Comunitarias), Tumeliwa Mpepho (Persons with Albinism) and Tiseke Kasambala (ARISA). The moderator for the panel was Lucia Da Silveira (SAHRDN). The following are the key issues that were raised during the panel discussion:

- I. The issue of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and child marriages is very prevalent in the SADC region. Countries like Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, South Africa and Mozambique have reported increases in cases of GBV during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- II. In Namibia, child marriages have been recorded involving the most impoverished ethnic groups that trade their girl children for money. The end result is high rate of GBV and high levels of illiteracy as the girl child once married off, cannot go back to school.
- III. Impunity is a serious challenge. Most of the perpetrators of GBV, especially involving those in child marriages go unpunished. State responses to GBV are inadequate.
- IV. Accessing victims/survivors of GBV during the COVID-19 pandemic has been difficult because of the lockdown. Some of the victims do not have cell phones, and they use their husbands' phones. Communicating with the victims has been a challenge because their husbands, who may be the perpetrators are the ones who answer the phones.
- V. Legal literacy is also inadequate, especially in Mozambique. Most of the citizens are not aware of the laws regarding child marriages. However, the creation of the Mozambique Human Rights Defenders Network has helped to improve the situation by providing public sensitization on these issues.
- VI. The situation in Botswana is not very different. Just like in other countries in the region, anti-GBV policies are not matched with adequate implementation and very few public resources are allocated towards dealing with this challenge.
- VII. People living with albinism are also amongst the marginalized groups who are being further marginalized in the various governments' responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. Their special health care needs are not being catered for. People living with albinism are also being marginalized in terms of access to other basic services such as education. Most of the people living with albinism were engaged in informal employment which was heavily disrupted by COVID-19 pandemic, and this has increased poverty and general suffering amongst this group.



Jemina Beukes (Namibian Sun),



Alice Mogwe



Lucia Da Silveira (SAHRDN)



PRESENTATION OF OHCHR REPORT ON CIVIC SPACE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

The OHCHR Regional Office for Southern Africa conducted a study, which included a survey and a desk review of communications by United Nations special procedures, observations of United Nations treaty bodies, recommendations of the Universal Periodic Review process, specialized reports, policies and practices in the region as well as consultations on civic space with human rights defenders to identify key trends and good practices in the region.

Positive findings

Amongst the positive findings of this survey include the following:

- I. Some States proactively protect and promote the work of civil society organizations and actors, in the sub-region, and consult civil society actors on policies and implementation.
- II. Digital technologies have opened up new avenues for civil society mobilization and participation.
- III. Human rights defenders in the sub-region are establishing better and more effective linkages with defenders working on similar issues in other countries. This provides opportunities to share good practices and conduct joint advocacy efforts.
- IV. Countries in the sub-region have strong constitutional and legal protections on equality, non-discrimination and freedoms of expression, assembly, association and participation.
- V. In many countries, civil society has been able to use strategic litigation to protect and uphold human rights.

Risk Factors

However, the survey also found some risks and threats which include that:

- i. Some States in the sub-region continue to use colonial-era and new laws to arbitrarily arrest, detain and prosecute human rights defenders, trade unionists and civil society actors.
- ii. In some countries, overly broad anti-terrorism, defamation and cybercrime laws are used to silence dissent and arbitrarily arrest and detain media workers, activists and members of civil society.
- iii. Some countries in the region, deny permits for public protests by trade unions, political opposition and non-governmental organizations and use excessive, disproportionate and discriminatory force in policing demonstrations.
- iv. There are emerging challenges presented by the increased use of digital technologies. While the internet brings new opportunities for civic space, the digital divide limits people's ability to participate in the conversations and issues that affect them. Human Rights Defenders are subjected to online threats and attacks such as surveillance, hacking, trolling, cyber-bullying, doxing, harassment and smear campaigns.
- v. Some countries have attempted to silence online speech and limit information flows, including by prescribing criminal offences for "online insults".
- vi. Outdated laws on public order and "public morals" are also used to curtail activism by human rights defenders working on womxn's rights and gender equality and LGBTI+ issues.

Recommendations

Overall, this study found that there is scope for countries to strengthen compliance with international norms and standards and implement a number of recommendations from the human rights mechanisms. It made certain key recommendations directed to the states, civil society and the United Nations as well as the international community. These recommendations are as below:

i. States

- a. States that have not already done so, should consider repealing colonial-era laws, including offences of sedition, treason, public order and morals that are inconsistent with their national constitutions and international human rights law.
- b. States that have not already done so, should consider amending or repealing criminal defamation laws and overly broad anti-terrorism and cybercrime laws that have been used to target human rights defenders in accordance with international human rights law.
- c. As States work towards achieving the 2030 Agenda, governments in the sub-region should continue to consult and include the perspectives of diverse civil society actors. This should include human rights defenders and affected communities in the planning and delivery of sustainable development, as well as on economic and social rights, gender equality and environmental rights.
- d. States should respect, protect, promote and fulfil the human rights of all people without discrimination. Factors that heighten the risk of human rights defenders, activists, journalists and other civil society actors to become victims of human rights violations should be addressed, including impunity.
- e. Where human rights violations are committed, States should ensure that independent, impartial, prompt, adequate and effective criminal investigations are conducted and that alleged perpetrators are brought to trial in a fair, impartial, timely and expeditious manner with adequate penalties and remedies for victims.
- f. States should strengthen national protection systems and ensure adequate protection for womxn human rights defenders and activists working on LGBTI+ issues, womxn's rights and gender issues, corruption and environmental rights as they face high risks of violence.
- g. States should seek support, where necessary, from external sources, such as United Nations system entities, the international community and civil society, to design and implement all appropriate measures required to create an enabling environment for civic space including to eliminate and respond to sexual and gender-based violence against womxn human rights defenders and activists.
- h. States that have not already done so, should consider enacting human rights-compliant legislation on access to information, cyber-crimes, data protection and whistle-blowing that protects whistle-blowers from criminal prosecution, civil sanction and reprisals.
- i. States should ensure that measures adopted in response to COVID-19 including states of emergency and states of disaster fully comply with international human rights standards, particularly the requirement that limitations to human rights should be provided by law, necessary, proportional and non-discriminatory.

ii. Civil Society

- a. A More readily use United Nations and regional human rights mechanisms, including the African Commission and Court, to address threats to civic space and human rights defenders in the sub-region.
- b. Strengthen national and regional networks of civil society actors and human rights defenders to coordinate, share good practices and jointly engage international and regional human rights mechanisms.
- c. Use the opportunity presented by the 2030 Agenda to engage national governments on civic space issues.
- d. Focus advocacy efforts on risks and threats presented by the online space and addressing the digital divide through advocating for better internet access and reduced cost of data and services.

- e. Identify individual and collective opportunities to bring strategic litigation in regional and national courts.
- f. Encourage knowledge and awareness-sharing on cyber security and access to digital security tools among civil society actors.

iii. United Nations and International Community:

- a. Engage with and support Member States on policies and legislation that promote human rights, equal participation and civic space, including a free and independent media.
- b. Support States to develop protection mechanisms for human rights defenders and environmental activists, particularly womxn.
- c. Support States to ensure that human rights principles inform the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and that civil society participate in and contribute to localized SDG implementation.
- d. Support States to engage with the United Nations human rights mechanisms to address threats to civic space and human rights defenders in the sub-region.
- e. Support the strengthening of national and regional networks of civil society actors and human rights defenders to coordinate, share good practices, including protection networks and to raise the visibility of civil society voices.
- f. Support United Nations Resident Coordinators and United Nations Country Teams to develop partnerships with civil society organizations to contribute to an enabling environment for civic space, including for womxn's rights defenders.
- g. Monitor and report on cases of human rights violations against civil society actors, including attacks on human rights defenders and members of civil society, including supporting the United Nations' mandate on addressing intimidation and reprisals against those who seek to cooperate or have cooperated with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms.

Fourth Session

Digital Security as part of Holistic Security for Human Rights Defenders

During the summit there was a session on Holistic Security for Human Rights Defenders which was led by Mr. Tawanda Mugari from the Digital Society of Africa. The session began by the explanation of the relationship amongst Physical Security, Digital Security and Psychosocial Security as being one integrated thing. Participants were urged not to try to separate these 3 as they are important in making one's security protocol effective if looked together. In this session the following issues were also discussed:

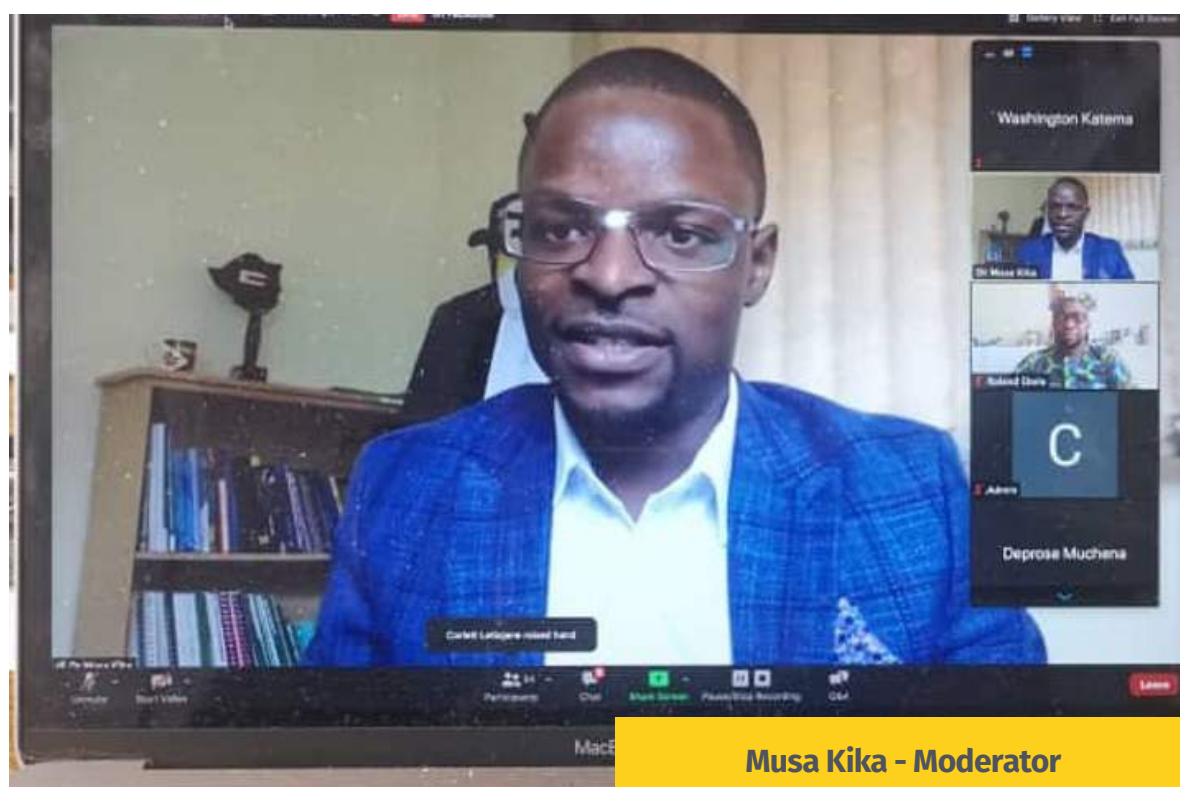
Basic Computer Hygiene: The participants were taught how to understand and practice basic computer hygiene, as well as how to manage their computer vitals.

Creation of strong secure passwords: The importance on strong passwords were also discussed and how to create one. It is important to note that a password is the first line of defence in the digital world.

Securing Online Accounts:

A detailed summary on how to secure online accounts was also discussed using Multi-Factor authenticator methods. An emphasis of have an additional layer of security was used using a Security Key or Authentication Application on one's mobile phone.

The session was then closed by a discussion on how participants can safe guard their mobile devices and social media accounts as these are now the primary targets of hackers or state agents





Summit resolutions and recommendations

- i. Coalition building: There is a need for coalition building and promoting greater collaboration across sectors within the SAHRDN. This improves responsiveness and effectiveness in carrying out activities of the SAHRDN.
- ii. Digital civic space: There is a need to adopt new methods of activism such as online protests. These protests have potential to reach out to more participants and may also allow human rights defenders to bypass restrictive legal requirements to be complied with in order to stage a physical protest. However, there is a need for HRDs to become aware of threats associated with the digital online platform. There is also a need to push back against growing state restrictions being imposed on the digital space.
- iii. Cost effectiveness: In light of dwindling donor support due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there is a need to find more cost effective ways of conducting work, especially by leveraging on available technologies to conduct meetings.
- iv. Amplifying voices of marginalised HRDs: There is a need to amplify the advocacy being done by HRDs who are defending the rights of marginalised groups. This must include documenting and showcasing their work and developing specialised mechanisms to support their work.
- v. Emergency holistic support: Human rights defenders who are in distress need to be adequately and timely supported so as to protect them from imminent danger. And this support should be comprehensive to include physical, digital and psychosocial support.
- vi. Capacity strengthening and civic education: There is a need to enhance the knowledge of HRDs especially on technical/human rights subject matters that are relevant to their work. Distribution of information materials such as the HRDs handbook should be expedited.
- vii. Advocacy in defence of the civic space: In light of the rise of authoritarianism and continued shrinking of civic space, there is need for HRDs to heighten and deepen advocacy efforts in defence of civic space. This must include, advocating governments to implement their regional and international obligations as well as ratify the relevant international instruments. Evidence-based approaches to advocacy must be promoted to defend civic space. There is a need to engage more with the United Nations and regional human rights mechanisms, including the African Commission and Court, to address threats against civic space and human rights defenders in the sub-region.
- viii. Inclusion of non-English speaking member countries: There is need to be more inclusive in the spirit of leaving no one behind with a particular focus on Portuguese-speaking and French-speaking HRDs was raised.



ANNEX 1: SUMMIT AGENDA

2020 Southern Africa Human Rights Defenders Summit

“Building Back Better: Expanding the Civic Space and Enhancing Resilience of Human Rights Defenders During and Post COVID-19 – A Special Focus on Womxn and Traditionally Marginalized Groups”

Via: Zoom Link to register: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_LDar9d8nTHuzF7SJf1lQ

Dates: December 1-2, 2020

December 1, 2020

Conference Moderator: Dr Musa Kika, Zimbabwe NGO Forum

11:00 – 11:20 (SAT): Welcome Remarks:

- Arnold Tsunga, Southern Africa Human Rights Defenders Network
- Tiseke Kasambala, Advancing Rights in Southern Africa (ARISA)
- Deprose Muchena, Amnesty International
- Abigail Noko, OHCHR Regional Office for Southern Africa

11:20 – 11:50 (SAT): Keynote Speakers:

- Hon. Timothy Mtambo, Minister of Civic Education and National Unity, Government of Malawi
- Ms. Mary Lawlor, UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders

Panels:

First Session: Navigating the Shrinking Civic and Democratic Space During COVID-19

Time: 11:50 – 13:30 (SAT)

Speakers:

- Siphosami Malunga, Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa
- Roland Ebole – Amnesty International
- Prof. Adriano Nuvunga, Centre for Democracy and Development Mozambique
- Irene Petras, International Center for Not-for-Profit Law.
- Leah Mitaba, Zambia Council for Social Development.

Moderator: Otto Saki, Ford Foundation

Second Session: Assessing the Impact of COVID-19 on Womxn Human Rights Defenders

Time: 15:00-17:00 (SAT)

Speakers:

- Jemina Beukes, Namibian Sun
- Ferosa Zacarias, FORCOM (Forum das Radios Comunitarias)
- Tumeliwa Mpepho, Persons with Albinism
- Alice Mogwe, DITSHWANELO - The Botswana Centre for Human Rights and FIDH
- Tiseke Kasambala, Advancing Rights in Southern Africa (ARISA)

Moderator: Lucia Da Silveira, Southern Africa Human Rights Defenders Network

December 2, 2020**Third Session: Civic Space in Southern Africa: An Analysis of Key Trends (OHCHR Report)**

11:00 – 12:00 (SAT)

Speaker: Anganile Mwenifumbo, OHCHR Regional Office for Southern Africa

Discussants:

- Deprose Muchena, Amnesty International
- Laura Miti, Alliance for Community Action

Moderator: Arnold Tsunga, Southern Africa Human Rights Defenders Network

Fourth Session: Digital Security as part of Holistic Security for Human Rights Defenders

12:00 – 12:45 (SAT)

Guest Speaker: Tawanda Mugari, Digital Society Africa

Fifth (Closed) Session: SAHRDN Biennial General Meeting

14:00 – 1700



SAHRDNETWORK



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