



# SARW

Southern Africa Resource Watch

## **CASA Condemns the Politically Motivated Assassinations of Political Leaders During Mozambique's Election Violence**

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**22 October 2024** - The Coalition Against SLAPP Suits (CASA) deeply regrets and unequivocally condemns the tragic killings of Elvino Dias and Paulo Guambe, two prominent political figures who were senselessly murdered during the ongoing election violence in Mozambique.

This brutal act represents not only a direct assault on the democratic process but also a dangerous attack on human rights defenders and the shrinking of civic and political space in Mozambique and across the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region. The killings threaten the very foundation of peaceful political engagement and represent an alarming reversal of civil liberties and democratic processes—principles that CASA has consistently championed.

Elvino Dias and Paulo Guambe were dedicated champions of sustainable development and a just energy transition. Both had recently undergone training with the Southern Africa Resource Watch (SARW) as part of its Just Energy Transition initiatives, which equipped them with essential skills and knowledge to advocate for a sustainable, renewable energy future in Mozambique. Their efforts focused on reducing dependency on fossil fuels, fostering a transition to renewable energy sources, and promoting socio-economic justice within their communities. Their tragic and senseless loss leaves an enduring void, yet their commitment to equitable environmental policies and community upliftment has left a lasting, indelible impact.

CASA calls for a thorough, independent investigation into the circumstances surrounding their deaths and demands that justice be served. We urge Mozambican authorities to hold those responsible accountable and to establish a safer environment for political leaders, activists, and those who work for positive change. This tragedy serves as a sombre reminder of the dangers faced by those defending democracy and human rights, yet it also strengthens our resolve to continue this vital work.

CASA remains steadfast in its commitment to supporting peaceful political discourse, defending those who advocate for sustainable development, and ensuring that the vision of Elvino Dias and Paulo Guambe for a just energy transition in Mozambique lives on. By championing their mission, CASA honours their legacy and reaffirms its role in promoting a fair, green future—prioritizing community empowerment, equitable environmental policies, and socio-economic justice in Mozambique and beyond.