

Sender:

Germany

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

Hamburg, 30 March, 2025

Alcina Nhaume, Maputo

Dear Prosecutor General,

I am writing to express grave concern for designer Alcina Nhaume, 31, who was shot in the face inside her atelier, in Maputo, Mozambique, in the course of the actions of the security forces, and was so severely wounded that she is in critical condition in the hospital.

On 5 March, Alcina Nhaume was going about her normal workday when protests broke out in her neighborhood Michafutene, with residents barricading the road. According to neighbours, the UIR-Rapid Intervention Unit (Mozambique's security forces) had been deployed to disperse the protest, and soon after the police began chasing the protestors. As Alcina Nhaume was about to grab her purse to go home, she heard several gunshots. One of the shots went through a metal barrier in the window of Alcina Nhaume's shop and struck her in the face.

The images shared by her family show her face severely damaged. Parts of her mouth were on the ground, including some teeth, and her jaw was severely injured. Alcina Nhaume was hospitalized at the Maputo Central Hospital, where her doctors say she will remain for the next few months as her health is in critical condition. Her face is severely disfigured. She is currently being fed through tubes, and according to her doctors she will never speak again, and will struggle to eat, unless she undergoes specialized surgery abroad. Even with such a surgery, it will take time for her to regain the ability to speak.

On 9 March, the authorities said they would investigate Alcina Nhaume's shooting. However, Amnesty International is concerned that this may be just an empty promise, as has happened many times before, and that the results of any such investigations will not be made public, nor will the perpetrators be held accountable. As per Article 58 of the Constitution of the Republic of Mozambique, "the state is responsible for damages caused by illegal acts of its agents in the performance of their duties, without prejudice to the right of recourse under the law."

In light of the above, I call on you to promptly, thoroughly, independently, impartially, transparently and effectively conduct an investigation into Alcina Nhaume's shooting, ensuring that the findings are made public and the perpetrators are held accountable in fair trials.

Yours sincerely,

[Name and signature]