



REPÚBLICA DE MOÇAMBIQUE

ASSEMBLEIA DA REPÚBLICA

**Address by Honourable José Katupha, Head of the National
Delegation of Mozambique on the occasion of the 135th
General Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union**

(Geneva, 23rd to 27th October 2016)

His Excellency the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

Distinguished Members of the Presidium

Rt. Honourable Speakers

Honourable Members of Parliament

Ladies and Gentlemen

I am overjoyed to be here and to be able to address to all of you in this august occasion of the 135th General Assembly our secular organization, the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

Prevention and mitigation of the violation of human rights in our countries in particular and the world at large is the Central Topic of this General Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. The purpose is, in fact, to point out in this debate the violation of human rights as a portent or primary source of conflicts and in this situational state, make a critical look at the role of parliaments in promoting and defending human rights.

In particular, this reflection aims at learning the reality of the facts about whether parliaments are duly equipped with mechanisms for:

1. promote respect for human rights
2. to monitor the evolution of human rights
3. ensure that parliaments are the primary source of the solution of the violations of human rights, the cause conflicts.

In other words, we intend in this debate to evaluate the effectiveness of the role of parliaments as a first response authority to human rights violations and, in this manner, proceed to the adequacy of the actions at parliament level and sophistication of human rights violations currently taking place in the world.

Excellencies,

The truth of the matter reveals that one of the objective reasons for the favorable environment to violation of human rights is the inexistence of a democratic institution of parliamentary nature in a country. It is this measure that leads to each of our countries has a parliamentary institution is accepted and welcome to belong to this great family of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

Excelências,

This is the reason that leads each of our countries to have a parliamentary institution that is accepted and welcome to belong to this big family of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

Therefore, it is interesting to note, however, that both in my country and in other countries represented here, with one or other differences, all our countries have a Constitution in force, which enshrines, among other things, the rights and freedoms of the human kind, the right to freedom of expression, of choice and of lifestyle.

In my country as well as in many other countries, there are civil society organizations engaged in defending human rights, promoting the empowerment of women, youth; there are unions of journalists and socio-professional organizations, promoting the rights of children, elderly and disabled person.

In my country and in other countries represented here, Members of Parliaments, exercise their full functions without any constraint: they pass laws, they oversee the implementation of executive programs, they interact with the judiciary. There are specialized Committees that watch over human rights, such as the Committee on Petitions. In Mozambique we have the Ombudsman.

Excellencies,

With all this panoply of democratic instruments, the truth of the matter is that, sadly, the violation of human rights occurs today on a global scale and at different levels and in multiple forms of its manifestation in each of our countries and nations.

Indeed, every day, every month, every year of the existence of our countries, peoples and nations are faced with new and challenging situations that endanger the essence of human rights, the right to life itself.

When the right to life is violated all other rights in sequence are placed in permanent instability and imbalance, including the right to be different but equal before the law and before equal opportunities, the right to safety and well-being, the right to choose and the way to enjoy the goods that Mother Nature generously offers to the humanity.

If the world's parliaments exercise their role as described above, what then escapes from parliaments to continue witnessing violations of human rights in the world? What is the root of the problem?

Excellencies,

The imbalance in access to goods of the nature, the huge living inequalities in the same community village that the world has transformed into through globalization, the selfishness of the world powers, the preponderance of capital and of the corporations places the human life on the lowest shelf of values they pursue. **Profit. Profit. Profit. It is what matters; the rest be damned!**

Consequently, we witness gross violations of the laws passed by parliaments, particularly those of the third world countries, for protection of human rights. Corruption, whose sophistication trend at world level is the easy identification of corrupts and sophisticated network of camouflage of corruptors, the imposition of inhuman values but favorable to the easy profits of the foreign capital, these are favorable factors of human rights violations.

Global financial institutions impose and set their rules game rules in our economic relations tendentially in imbalance

Many of us whose engine capacity of our vehicles does not allow us to enter in the super highway of communication, we are preliminarily prevented and driven away from the race. In this manner, very few in the world are those who arrogate to themselves the right to sit at the table of globalization at the expense of the rest of the world.

And we are then subject to a whole range of violations: we watch powerlessly the decriminalization of most the most powerful. We suffer with heart torn by anger before the discrimination and forced displacement from the land of our ancestors and we live with the silencing weaker, who will thicken the suffering of forced migration fueling hatred and suppressing the fraternity. We put the world in chaos.

In order to end all this, the role of parliament alone is not enough. A coordinated global action is needed. A new world order is necessary to stop the human rights violations so that the world's parliaments together will have their role.

"The essence of human rights is the right to have rights.", Quoting Hannah Arendt.

Thank you for your kind attention.