



PRESS RELEASE

Madagascar: the United Against Torture Consortium condemns the brutal repression of demonstrations for water and electricity.

6 October 2025

The United Against Torture Consortium expresses its deepest concern and condemns in the strongest terms the **brutal repression** carried out by the Malagasy security forces against peaceful demonstrators.

Since **25 September 2025**, Madagascar's capital, Antananarivo, has witnessed protests led mainly by young people, grouped under the name '**GEN Z**', denouncing the government's failure to uphold fundamental rights, in particular the recurring **water and electricity cuts**.

Excessive and disproportionate use of force

The Consortium is deeply concerned by the **excessive and disproportionate use of force** by the Malagasy security forces. According to figures from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, this violent crackdown has resulted in the deaths of **22 people, including children**, and caused **numerous** injuries among unarmed protesters, including journalists covering the events. The level of violence suggests that the acts may constitute cruel, inhuman or degrading treatments, or even torture.

This lethal use of force is a **clear violation** of the fundamental principles of international law. We reiterate that:

1. Law enforcement officers may only use force when **strictly necessary**.
2. The use of **firearms** is only permitted when lives are in immediate danger and there is no other means of protecting them.
3. Compliance with **legal procedures for issuing warnings** is mandatory before any use of force.

The Malagasy security forces' intervention appeared to be completely disproportionate and contrary to the **United Nations Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials**, as well as the United Nations **Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials**, texts which are consistent with the international instruments ratified by Madagascar.

Reminder of responsibilities and calls

The [Model Protocol for Law Enforcement Officials to Promote and Protect Human Rights in the Context of Peaceful Protests](#) clearly states that the role of law enforcement officials is to facilitate and

Therefore, the **United Against Torture Consortium**:

1. **Urges the President of the Republic of Madagascar** to intervene immediately to remind the security forces of their absolute obligation to respect the physical integrity of the population in all circumstances, and to hold them accountable for their actions.
2. **Calls on the security forces** to exercise immediate restraint and on the various actors to engage in **dialogue** in strict compliance with republican legality and the rule of law.
3. **Calls on the competent Malagasy authorities** to ensure an **immediate, effective, independent and impartial investigation** into these violations. This investigation is essential to identify those responsible for the arbitrary or excessive use of force and to **prosecute** them, in accordance with United Nations Principle 7, which states that such acts must be punished as criminal offences;
4. **Grant victims and their families** appropriate **reparation**, including **rehabilitation**.

Justice must be done for the families of the victims. Impunity cannot be tolerated.

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United Against Torture Consortium:

UATC is an EU-funded project that pools the strengths and expertise of six international anti-torture organisations, in partnership with over 200 civil society organisations and other partners in 100+ countries, to strengthen and expand torture prevention, protection, rehabilitation and strategic litigation

For further information: [Protesting Without Fear: A policy framework to end torture and ill-treatment in the context of protests](#)