

URGENT ACTION

SHOT GEN Z ACTIVIST STILL AWAITS MEDICAL CARE

On 9 October 2025, activist Jonathan Rasolofoharimalala (also known as Jonathan Malagasy) was unlawfully struck by buckshot fired by security forces during a Gen Z protest in Antananarivo, the capital. One projectile tore through his right cheek, leaving a permanent scar and, he has not yet received the healthcare he urgently needs to remove another that became lodged in his shoulder. What he has received are death threats and warnings of imprisonment for his continued activism on social media on behalf of those injured during the protests. The authorities must ensure that Jonathan Malagasy and all others injured during the protests receive adequate healthcare and remedy for the violations suffered, including through prompt, thorough, independent and effective investigations into the security forces' unlawful use of force, bringing suspected perpetrators to justice, and end the intimidation and threats against Jonathan Malagasy and all other peaceful activists, in respect of their rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly.

TAKE ACTION: WRITE AN APPEAL IN YOUR OWN WORDS OR USE THIS MODEL LETTER

President of the Refoundation of the Republic
Palais d'État d'Iavoloha, Antananarivo 101, Madagascar
WhatsApp and Signal: +261 37 02 369 02
Email: mamitiana.rajaonarison@gmail.com

Dear Mr President Michael Randrianirina,

I am deeply concerned by your government's failure to provide healthcare and an effective remedy for people injured by law enforcement officers during the nationwide Gen Z protests against water and electricity shortages between September and October 2025.

*On 9 October 2025, at around 4:00 p.m., **Jonathan Rasolofoharimalala (also known as Jonathan Malagasy)** was among dozens of protesters trapped near the Befelatanana Maternity Hospital in Madagascar's capital city of Antananarivo. Protesters were surrounded by security forces, with gendarmes positioned to the right and left, police directly in front, and the hospital – to which they had no access – behind them. Jonathan Malagasy was then unlawfully struck by buckshot fired by security forces. One projectile tore through his right cheek and another became lodged in his shoulder.*

Jonathan Malagasy's facial wound has left a permanent scar - although he received treatment from first-aid volunteers, he was unable to access treatment at public hospitals which were being closely monitored by the authorities to conceal the number of those had been victims of gunshot injuries. Nearly a year later, he has still not received the healthcare he urgently needs to remove the projectile lodged in his shoulder. Instead, he has been receiving death threats and warnings of imprisonment for his continued activism and criticism on social media of government's continued failure to provide healthcare and effective remedy to people injured during the protests late last year. No one should be forced to live with untreated injuries or fear reprisals for seeking justice. Victims of the unlawful use of force by law enforcement must receive healthcare and a remedy, including effective investigations capable of holding those suspected of responsibility for human rights violations to account in fair proceedings.

I urge you to ensure that Jonathan Malagasy and all other people injured during the Gen Z protests receive the healthcare they need and an effective remedy for the violations they have suffered. I also call on your government to conduct the long-awaited independent, impartial, and effective investigations into the unlawful use of force, bring those responsible to justice, and end the intimidation and threats against Jonathan Malagasy and others calling your government to account.

Yours sincerely,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Madagascar's military authorities seized power in October 2025 following youth-led protests in 2025 demanding improved service delivery, particularly access to water and electricity, as well as more effective and inclusive governance. The new authorities promised reforms but instead, they have deepened repression, under the pretext of a zero tolerance anti-corruption campaign and used broadly framed charges of criminal conspiracy, threats to national security and fears of destabilization to target and silence young activists, civil society members and those linked to the previous government.

It took Michael Randrianirina (the junta leader) less than a month in power to make clear his intention to run in the elections he had pledged to take the country to within two years. This not only explains the intensifying repression, but also the lack of serious effort to investigate soldiers, gendarmes and police who killed and injured protesters last year.

Parliament – largely aligned with the junta – has unsurprisingly chosen not to operationalise the commission tasked with investigating senior officials for their alleged abuses. Instead, investigations into “violent actions to repress protesters” have so far targeted only Former government officials linked to the previous government.

PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET: French and Malagasy

You can also write in your own language.

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: 15 January 2027

Please check with the Amnesty office in your country if you wish to send appeals after the deadline.

NAME AND PRONOUN: Jonathan Rasolofoharimalala (AKA Jonathan Malagasy) he/him