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Four minors shot: Urgent accountability of the Commander of the PRM in Mogovolas, Nampula

- On July 2, 2023, four minors were shot by the PRM District Commander in Mogovolas, Nampula province, when he was trying to disperse a group of citizens who were demanding the return of motorcycles seized by the Police. The motorcycles were seized to prevent a race that had been scheduled to mark the anniversary of the district headquarters of Nametil.



Credits: Jornal IKWELI Jornal IKWELI



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During this time, the Police allegedly fired shots to disperse the people who intended to reach the District Command, where the seized motorcycles were stored. The victims' relatives point to the District Commander of the PRM as the person responsible for the shooting.

According to the IKWELI newspaper, in the July 31 edition, the mother of one of the victims said that her son went to school, but after being shot he was unable to travel due to the wound he suffered in his leg. "He spends most of his time here at home sitting down. He walks with difficulties due to the wound. Since we got back from the hospital, a nurse has been coming to wash the wound"¹.

Felizardo Luís, another victim of the shooting, told IKWELI that he cannot walk, but he has been receiving medical care from a health professional posted locally. Felizardo stated that after being discharged from the hospital, he has been receiving visits from the wife of the District Commander of the PRM in Mogovolas. In addition to visits, the Commander's wife offered 10 kg of rice, 25 kg of celestial flour, soap, sugar and 700.00 Mt (seven hundred meticaís) in cash.

Another victim of the shooting also received

money and food products from the wife of the Commander of the PRM in Mogovolas, named by family members as the author of the shots that hit four minors who were assisted at the Central Hospital of Nampula (HCN). The victims were hit in the legs, thigh and buttock and the HCN confirmed that the injuries were caused by a firearm.

Natália Paina, Felizardo's mother, said she did not understand how the Police, instead of guaranteeing people's safety, public order and tranquility, shot at minors who were there to attend the day celebrations in the village of Nametil. "My son helped me a lot at home. Today, with this wound, there is a lot of difference. Before, he would go to the market, and help carry water home. But now there is no way"².

As would be expected, the Provincial Command of the PRM in Nampula does not confirm the information that points to the District Commander of the PRM as the author of the shots. Speaking to the press, the Head of the Public Relations Department at the Provincial Command of the PRM in Nampula, Dércio Samuel, said that the case of the shooting of four people on 31 July was still being investigated.

"A team was assigned to work on the matter and we still haven't had the report, because it involves

¹ IKWELI (2023). Mogovolas: The lives of the teenagers shot by the police never went back to the way they were before. IKWELI Journal, ed. July 31, 2023. Nampula

² IKWELI (2023). Mogovolas: The lives of the teenagers shot by the police never went back to the way they were before. IKWELI Journal, ed. July 31, 2023. Nampula

ballistics tests to find out where the projectile that hit the minors came from. In the next few days, we may have more details about the case¹.

However, according to IKWELI, at the district level information is circulating that the local Commander was suspended after the incident. This information was also not confirmed by the Provincial Command of the PRM in Nampula.

However, CDD understands that the shooting of four defenseless people, including minors, constitutes further proof of the violation of human rights by PRM agents. The case becomes even more serious because it involves the District Commander of the PRM in Mogovolas, a figure who should ensure the responsible and exemplary behavior of the agents.

The fact that the Commander's wife was visiting the victims and providing symbolic support is revealing that the shots that hit the two minors were carried out by the highest PRM officer in the District of Mogovolas. Due to the impunity that reigns in the corporation, the Commander of the PRM in Mo-

govolas was not and will not be held responsible for shots against defenseless minors.

Under Article 253(1) of the Constitution of the Republic of Mozambique (CRM), the Police have the duty to guarantee law and order, safeguard the safety of people and property, public tranquility, and respect for the rule of law. Democratic and strict observance of the fundamental rights and freedoms of citizens. The CRM establishes that the Police are non-partisan (article 253, paragraph 2) and must obey the law and serves citizens and public and private institutions with exemption and impartiality.


But the action of the PRM Commander in Mogovolas went against his duties: he did not guarantee either the law or order; it did not safeguard people's safety and public tranquility; grossly offended the democratic rule of law and did not respect the fundamental rights and freedoms of citizens. Therefore, CDD demands the criminal responsibility of the Commander and that the State guarantees the assistance of the two minors hit by the shots.

³ IKWELI (2023). Mogovolas: The lives of the teenagers shot by the police never went back to the way they were before. IKWELI Journal, ed. July 31, 2023. Nampula

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