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Moçamvenezuela: Mozambique at a Crossroads of Freedom and Fear



Today, Mozambique is experiencing one of the most tense and brutal periods in its recent history. Since October 21, protests have erupted across the country, particularly in Maputo, Nampula, Niassa, and parts of Sofala and Inhambane. These demonstrations, called by Venâncio Mondlane—who claims to have won the general elections—are a response to alleged electoral fraud and a broader decline in social and economic conditions. The majority of the protesters are young people, demanding not only electoral justice but

also social justice and the right to a dignified life filled with hope.

Mozambican youth are calling for something simple yet fundamental: a country free of corruption and organized crime, with access to education, healthcare, public transportation, and employment opportunities—conditions that would allow them to build families and create a future. These rights, guaranteed by the Constitution, are increasingly distant from the daily reality of the people. Survival and dignity have themselves become reasons for

struggle.

Despite the constitutional right to protest, peaceful demonstrations have been met with brutal repression from the Mozambican Republic Police (PRM). Armed to the teeth with live ammunition, rubber bullets, tear gas, and heavy weaponry, the police have confronted protesters and even attacked innocent families in their homes. Since the protests began, there have been reports of 13 deaths, more than 480 injuries, and around 700 arbitrary arrests across the country.

In Maputo, the police crackdown is intense and frightening. Officers have invaded homes, launched tear gas inside residences, intimidated families, and injured children. This indiscriminate brutality has generated an atmosphere of fear and despair, resembling scenes of urban warfare. In Mecanhelas, Niassa, police forces opened fire on a crowd, an incident that evokes the tragedies and massacres that marked dark chapters in other nations.

The violence wielded by the state is alarming. These young people, who should represent the country's future, are being treated as enemies simply for raising their voices and calling for change. By confronting the people with bullets and tear gas, the Mozambican government is not just suppressing protests—it is suffocating the fundamental right to hope for a better future. This disproportionate response reveals a deep-seated crisis in democratic values and respect for human rights.

The PRM's violent response exposes systemic fragility and the inability of institutions to address legitimate demands for change. Mass repression, house-to-house persecution, and curtailment of free expression constitute serious human rights violations, rights that the state is supposed to protect

and uphold. This climate of terror and intimidation has led many to refer to Mozambique as “Moçamvenezuela,” highlighting the authoritarian transformation of the country.

The future of Mozambique appears grim unless there is a strong, coordinated response to halt this escalation of violence. It is urgent that the international community pay close attention to what is happening and that Mozambicans are granted the right to freely express themselves. Without decisive intervention and assurances that constitutional rights will be upheld, the country risks sinking into a cycle of repression and suffering.

The Mozambican people are crying out for justice and dignity, and it is time for all who value human rights and democracy to join this call. These young voices are the future of Mozambique; their dreams and hopes cannot be silenced by state brutality.

What we see in Mozambique today mirrors a pattern previously played out in Venezuela's past elections, where Mozambique's current National Election Commission (CNE) president, Bishop Carlos Matsinhe, was present. As in Mozambique, Venezuela's elections were marred by allegations of fraud, violent repression of protesters, and a progressive erosion of civil rights, with the intimidation of civil society and the silencing of opposition voices. Hence the term “Moçamvenezuela”—a fusion of authoritarian tendencies seen in both countries, where the quest for justice and electoral transparency is crushed by brute force and political manipulation. Matsinhe's presence at Venezuela's elections raises questions and becomes a worrying symbol of how authoritarian practices are being normalized and imported, putting Mozambique's democratic future and the rights of its people at risk.



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