



# PLATFORM FOR DIALOGUE FOR CONFLICT RESOLUTION IN CABO DELGADO

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FINANCING OF RWANDAN TROOPS IN CABO DELGADO

## **Nyusi and Kagame spoke in London, but not yet known whether the EU has cleared the 20 million euros disbursement.**



- After several negotiations, in December 2022 the European Union (EU) promised to finance the operations of Rwandan troops in Cabo Delgado with 20 million euros. But in March of this year, Paul Kagame made it known that the EU was making the disbursement of €20 million conditional on the cessation of all actions promoted by the Kigali regime to destabilize the DRC, including support for the M23 rebel group. Rwanda is one of the most committed African states in peace and security missions but, paradoxically, the same country is accused by its neighbors in Central Africa of destabilizing the region through various actions that include the violation of sovereignty and territorial integrity, the exploitation of natural resources outside its borders and support for rebel groups operating in the DRC.

The Presidents of Mozambique and Rwanda met last weekend in London to discuss matters related to the fight against violent extremism in Cabo Delgado, as well as the funding of troops operating in that province. The announcement was made by the Mozambican President on the social network Instagram, in a publication in which he appears alongside his Rwandan counterpart Paul Kagame.

In the publication, Filipe Nyusi did not provide details on the two matters discussed, at a time when Rwanda is waiting for the disbursement of the 20 million euros promised by the European Union to finance the troops deployed to Cabo Delgado. On December 1, 2022, the Council of the European Union adopted military assistance measures, including a sum of 20 million euros to support the maintenance of Rwandan troops fighting violent extremism in Cabo Delgado<sup>1</sup>.

Already on December 31, 2022, the European Union urged Rwanda to “stop supporting the M23”, a rebel group operating in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), specifically in the province of North Kivu. Like Rwanda, North-Kivu is a region rich in mineral resources and has been the scene of military clashes between the

DRC armed forces and rebel movements, with emphasis on the M23 – which controls a large part of the territory.

The critical questioning of the European Union was made following the release of a report by experts from the United Nations (UN) on the DRC which indicated that it had collected evidence of “direct intervention” by the Rwandan defense forces within the territory of the DRC between November 2021 and October 2022<sup>2</sup>. The document revealed that Rwandan troops had launched operations to reinforce the M23, mainly with the supply of arms, ammunition and uniforms. However, Kigali called the UN experts’ accusations an “unjustified defamation against Rwanda” and blamed the DRC government for the instability in the border region of North Kivu<sup>3</sup>.

Already in February of this year, the European Union once again expressed concern about the worsening of security conditions in North Kivu and the increase in tensions between the DRC and Rwanda. Without directly mentioning the Kigali regime and the M23 rebel group, the European Union again called for an end to all types of direct or indirect support provided to non-state

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.diarioeconomico.co.mz/2022/12/02/economia/ue-aprova-verba-de-20-milhoes-de-euros-para-apoiar-forcas-ruandesas-em-mocambique/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.voaportugues.com/a/uni%C3%A3o-europeia-insta-ruanda-a-parar-de-apoiar-rebel-des-m23-na-rep%C3%BAblica-democr%C3%A1tica-do-congo/6899240.html>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.voaportugues.com/a/uni%C3%A3o-europeia-insta-ruanda-a-parar-de-apoiar-rebel-des-m23-na-rep%C3%BAblica-democr%C3%A1tica-do-congo/6899240.html>



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armed groups operating in the eastern part of the DRC and throughout the region<sup>4</sup>.

A month later, Paul Kagame made it known that the European Union was conditioning the disbursement of 20 million euros destined to support Rwandan troops in Cabo Delgado to the cessation of all actions promoted by the Kigali regime to destabilize the DRC, including support to the M23<sup>5</sup>. Rwanda is one of the main African States most committed to peace and security missions but, paradoxically, the same country is accused by its neighbors in Central Africa of destabilizing the region through various actions that include the violation of sovereignty and territorial integrity, exploitation of natural resources outside its borders and support for rebel groups operating in the DRC.

Two months after Kagame's announcement,

there is no public information about the European Union's support for Rwandan forces fighting violent extremism in Cabo Delgado. That is, it is not known whether the European Union has already lifted the demand made to the Kigali regime as a condition for disbursing the amount. When the European bloc announced its support in December 2022, the Rwandan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation reacted with satisfaction and noted that the 20 million euros would be important to "ensure that Rwandan troops continue to have the equipment and necessary logistics to combat armed terrorists in Cabo Delgado, restoring peace and security, allowing the safe return of displaced populations to their homes"<sup>6</sup>.

Rwanda deployed a contingent of military and police officers to Cabo Delgado in July 2021 at

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/ep-plenary-tensions-between-rwanda-and-democratic-republic-congo\\_en](https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/ep-plenary-tensions-between-rwanda-and-democratic-republic-congo_en)

<sup>5</sup> <https://cddmoz.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Paul-Kagame-confirma-presenca-da-empresa-ruandesa-ISCO-Security-em-Cabo-Delgado.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.minaffet.gov.rw/updates/news-details/rwanda-welcomes-support-of-european-peace-facility-to-joint-operations-in-cabo-delgado>



the request of the Government of Mozambique, currently with around 2,500 men involved in joint operations with Mozambican forces and the SADC region (SAMIM). “Additional troops are being deployed to areas that have experienced renewed terrorist attacks. Until now, the Rwandan contingent has been fully funded by the Rwandan government<sup>7</sup>.

After expelling violent extremists in Palma and Mocímboa da Praia, the Rwandan troops’ main mission is to guarantee security and stability in the two districts, creating conditions for the return of displaced populations, reopening of public services, resumption of economic activity and improvement of the humanitarian situation. It is, in fact, about creating the conditions required by the French multi-

national TotalEnergies for the resumption of activities to develop the project (Mozambique LNG) for gas exploration in the Rovuma basin.

When violent extremists expanded attacks to the southern districts of Cabo Delgado towards the end of the first half of 2022, the Government requested support from Rwandan troops to guarantee security in the areas of graffiti extraction. In this region of Cabo Delgado, the Rwandan contingent is stationed in Ancuabe, the district where the Australian mining company Triton operates. Minerals. This Monday, the Chief of Staff of the Mozambican Armed Forces, Admiral Joaquim Mangrassa, visited the Rwandan troops operating in Ancuabe and praised the work carried out in the last five months<sup>8</sup>.

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.minaffet.gov.rw/updates/news-details/rwanda-welcomes-support-of-european-peace-facility-to-joint-operations-in-cabo-delgado>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.mod.gov.rw/news-detail/mozambique-armed-forces-chief-of-general-staff-visits-rwanda-security-forces-in-ancuabe-district>



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