



# PLATAFORMA DE PAZ E SEGURANÇA DE CABO DELGÁDO



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## The latest extension of SAMIM: SADC announces the end of the mission in Cabo Delgado for July 2024

- July 16, 2024. This appears to be the official date for the withdrawal of the SADC military mission (SAMIM) deployed to support Mozambique in combating violent extremism in Cabo Delgado. The withdrawal is expected to start in December of this year, after an on-the-spot assessment taking place in October and November. The SADC Heads of State and Government yesterday approved the latest extension of SAMIM's mandate which is due to end in July 2024.



Credits: Facebook do Presidente da República

- The restoration of security conditions in Cabo Delgado is used as the main argument for the announcement of the departure of SAMIM, but there are also questions related to the financing of the troops that are in the theater of operations. The countries of the region do not have the money to finance, for an extended period, missions to restore peace and security in Mozambique and in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). While SADC announces the dates of its withdrawal, violent extremists continue to launch attacks mainly in the districts of Macomia and Mocímboa da Praia.

The SADC Summit that took place yesterday in Luanda, the capital of Angola, approved the extension of the region's joint military mission in Mozambique (SAMIM) for another 12 months, with the end scheduled for July 16, 2024. The government of the region commended the Member States and the leadership of SAMIM for their dedication and contribution to supporting the achievement of peace and security in the province of Cabo Delgado. On the same occasion, the start of the phased reduction of SAMIM was approved, a clear indication that SADC's military intervention in Cabo Delgado should end in July next.

The decision to extend SAMIM's mandate for 12 months had already been taken last July during the extraordinary session of the Troika of Heads of State and Government of the SADC Organ plus the SADC Troika. The purpose of this, which appears to be the final extension is to consolidate the achievements made since the deployment of the regional force in August 2021, reinforce stabilization processes and facilitate the safe return of displaced people to their areas of origin. At the virtual meeting of the SADC Troika, Mozambique informed that it was already developing strategies aimed at consolidating the reconquered territories and an action plan to be implemented after the withdrawal of SAMIM.<sup>1</sup>

At this Thursday's summit in Luanda, the Heads

of State and Government of the region also approved the deployment of the SADC Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (SAMIDRC) to restore peace and security in the east of the country. The summit reiterated the call for the need to strengthen the coordination and harmonization of peace initiatives in the east of the DRC carried out by various actors, including the East African Community, the Economic Community of Central African States, the International Council Conference on Great Lakes Region, SADC, United Nations (UN), under the leadership of the African Union Commission.

Scheduled for the middle of next year, the withdrawal of SAMIM in Cabo Delgado is announced at a time when the security situation in the province has not yet been completely resolved. Although with less intensity, violent extremists continue to launch attacks mainly in the districts of Macomia and Mocímboa da Praia, where the preferred targets have been Mozambican and foreign troops. On 8 August, violent extremists attacked a Mozambican Defense and Security Forces (FDS) position in the forests of Khatupa, in Macomia. According to the online newspaper Integrity, the attack left at least seven military personnel dead and another 10 wounded<sup>2</sup>.

A week before the attack against the FDS, violent extremists operating in Cabo Delgado swore allegiance to Sheikh Abu Hafs Al-Hash-

<sup>1</sup> PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC (2023). *SADC extends SAMIM's mandate for another twelve months*. Available at <https://www.presidencia.gov.mz/por/Actualidade/SADC-prorroga-mandato-da-SAMIM-por-mais-doze-meses>, accessed at 7:30 pm on August 17, 2023.

<sup>2</sup> INTEGRITY MAGAZINE (2023). *Terrorist attack on the Kathupa base in Macomia reactivates the "ghost of FADM desertions"*. Available at <https://integritymagazine.co.mz/arquivos/15452?amp=1>, accessed at 8:13 pm on August 17, 2023.



Credits: Integrity Magazine

emi Al- Qurashi, the new leader of the self-proclaimed Islamic State who replaces Abu al-Hussein al-Husseini al- Qurashi, whose death had been claimed by the President of Turkey. Just as the Islamic State (also known as Daesh) poses a threat to international security, the group of violent extremists operating in Mozambique also continues to pose a serious threat to the security of Cabo Delgado.

Therefore, the announced withdrawal of SAMIM in Cabo Delgado may be related to SADC's financial difficulties in keeping troops in the region longer in the theater of operations. The Troika at the SADC Summit last July recognized the need for additional resources to support peace processes in the region and called for campaigns to mobilize resources from the African Union, the United Nations and other international cooperation partners to support efforts

to restore peace and security in the Republic of Mozambique and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

While SADC is already advancing dates for the end of its military intervention in Cabo Delgado, the Rwandan regime has deployed new troops to replace the approximately 2,500 men who were in the province a year ago. The generals appointed by Paul Kagame in June this year to refresh the command in Cabo Delgado were also presented two weeks ago at the Mocímboa da Praia base. One question: It is not known whether the arrival of new troops in Cabo Delgado has the support promised to Rwanda by the European Union – which conditioned the disbursement of 20 million euros to the cessation of all actions promoted by the Kigali regime to destabilize the Republic Congo (DRC), including support for the M23 rebel group.



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