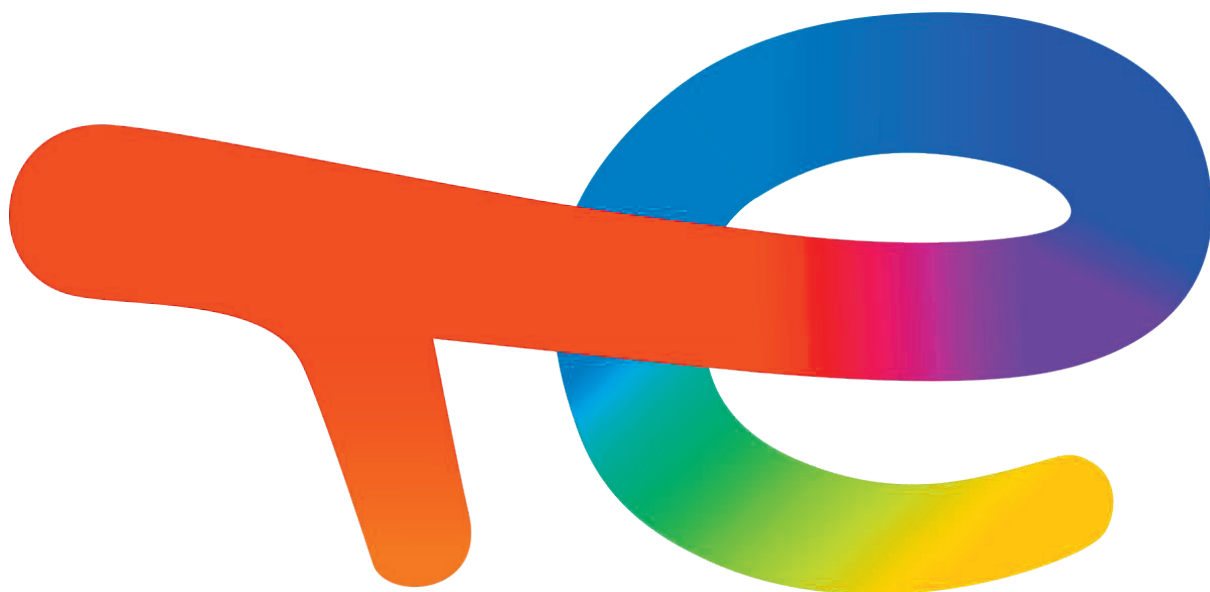




# After all, what will the report of the independent expert hired by TotalEnergies be based on?

- Since the beginning of February 2023, Mozambique has been waiting for the elaboration and consequent publication of the independent report on the humanitarian and human rights situation in Cabo Delgado, commissioned by the French multinational TotalEnergies to the expert Jean-Christophe Rufin, French doctor, and writer, diplomat, and specialist in humanitarian action. This expectation also contains questions related to the bases or data that should form the report and, mainly, if its design incorporates the feeling of the local communities.





# TotalEnergies

**T**otalEnergies \_ leads the Mozambique LNG project, the largest Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) project in Mozambique, with an investment of over US\$20 billion, in the district of Palma, province of Cabo Delgado. This investment suffered its biggest shock in March 2021, when violent extremists who have been carrying out attacks in Cabo Delgado since October 2017, occupied the main town of Palma, forcing the company to declare force majeure and announce that its return would be dependent on the significant improvement of security conditions in the region where the project takes place.

Subsequently, the Government of Mozambique responded with “musculature” to the problem of deteriorating security conditions in Palma, opening doors for the entry of Rwandan troops and the SADC Mission in Mozambique (SAMIM). It was the Rwandans who, in less than two months of military operations, recovered the municipal town of Mocímboa da Praia, which had been taken over by violent extremists a year ago.

Due to its strategic location, Mocímboa da Praia is an important logistical supply center for invest-

ments in Palma, either through the local port or through the local airfield, whose runway can receive large aircraft. In addition to Mocímboa da Praia, the Rwandan exchanges were tasked with guaranteeing the security of the district of Palma, where it has its base in Afungi, in a clear demonstration that the mission has as its main objective the recovery and protection of LNG projects. It is also Rwandan troops who mobilize and transport the population displaced by the attacks to their areas of origin, thus responding to one of TotalEnergies’ recommendations.

Although the security situation has improved significantly, the French giant showed no signs of resuming the Mozambique LNG project, a situation that left the Mozambican authorities impatient to the point of making public appeals to the Rwandan President, Paul Kagame, about the return of the multinational to Afungi. In this context, Patrick Pouyanné, CEO of TotalEnergies, visited Mozambique, specifically the province of Cabo Delgado, in the first week of last February, to assess security conditions. Patrick Pouyanné conditioned the definitive return to an independent assessment of the

humanitarian situation in the region, leaving it to the judgment of the expert in humanitarian action also of French nationality, Jean- Christophe Rufin.

Rufin 's hands are not only the capitalist interests of the French multinational but also the opportunity for local communities to participate in the process and express their feelings concerning the conflict and how the presence of the companies affects whether or not it contributes to the realization of their right to development.

The independent report will include, in addition to the assessment of the humanitarian and human rights situation, the actions implemented by the Mozambique LNG project and will present, if necessary, complementary measures to be implemented.

From the beginning, the methodology that would be and is being used by the independent expert was not clear, especially when looking at the involvement of key actors in the process of implementing and operating TotalEnergies, mainly local communities.

In this regard, it is important to listen to what the

population has to say about violent extremism, violation of human rights, the challenges of the humanitarian component, and the presentation of ways that can involve the company and the population for a resumption of operations that creates harmony and contribute to improving the lives of local communities and the country at large.

The truth is that communities and civil society organizations that work in advocacy in the extractive sector have not yet participated in a consultation process on the report, thus indicating a lack of participation and sensitivity towards those who really feel the problems that are intended to be addressed in the document.

The report, which was due to be delivered by the end of February, should be shared with the partners that make up the Mozambique LNG project, in the Rovuma Basin, who will later decide whether or not the conditions are right for the resumption of activities in the Peninsula de Afungi, including the return to the normal life of the population in the region, return to the provision of public services and, above all, the effective restoration of security.



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