



BOLETIM SOBRE DIREITOS HUMANOS

Rede Moçambicana de Defensores de Direitos Humanos



<https://multimedia.europarl.europa.eu>

GUARDIÃO DA DEMOCRACIA | www.cddmoz.org

Friday, January 13, 2023 | Year V, NO. 90 | Director: Prof. Adriano Nuvunga | English

BURNING OF BODIES BY THE MILITARY IN CABO DELGADO

An independent commission for investigation, and a statement from the Mozambican Government are urgent actions to be taken

- The investigation of the Southern African Development Community Military Mission (SAMIM) does not provide guarantees of transparency and impartiality. SAMIM cannot investigate its own actions



Credits: Jornal Evidências

An amateur video circulating on social networks showing military personnel believed to be from the Military Mission of the Southern African Development Community (SAMIM) in Mozambique, burning bodies, is shocking the most sensitive ones.

The video, which lasts almost 20 seconds, is said to have been made in November 2022, in Nangade, a district of Cabo Delgado, which has been devastated by violent extremism.

Reacting to the flurry of social criticism that followed the video, mainly because of the horror shown in it, the Military Mission of the Southern African Development Community said on Tuesday (January 10) that it is conducting an investigation to ascertain the veracity of the facts.¹

In a statement issued on January 12, the President of the Republic of Namibia, Hage Geingob, who serves as chairman of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defense and Security, says that SADC cannot condemn the act, allegedly because it is waiting for the results of the investigation being conducted by SAMIM.²

SAMIM's investigation is welcome, but we believe that there is an urgent need to create an independent commission for the case. An investigation by SAMIM does not guarantee transparency and impartiality.

There is a conflict of interest in this case, since we would have SAMIM investigating SAMIM itself. In this sense, it is unlikely that SAMIM will bring results that compromise its members.

In the video in question, two soldiers, whose uniforms do not allow them to identify their country of origin, throw a body (believed to be that of a terrorist) onto a burning pile of garbage. Another burning body had already been thrown into this pile before the complicit gaze of other military personnel. One of the military personnel recording the scene is wearing the uniform of the South African National Defense Force. South Africa has already reacted and acknowledges the presence of its members at the scene.³

The scenes in the video violate human rights and international humanitarian law.⁴ Regardless of whether or not the burned bodies are those responsible for the terrorist attacks in the northern districts of Cabo Delgado, and part of the provinces of Nampula and Niassa, the military are not allowed to act in the way they did.

The Mozambique Human Rights Defenders Network defends the creation of an independent commission to investigate the case. Only with an independent investigation will it be possible to achieve results that allow the military involved in that macabre act to be held accountable. The SAMIM investigation is welcome, but it does not guarantee transparency.

On the other hand, we argue that the Mozambican government (which is currently in a sepulchral silence) should speak out on this case, taking into account that the SADC troop is in Mozambique at the invitation of the government.

¹ <https://opais.co.mz/sadc-investiga-caso-de-soldados-acusados-de-queimar-corpos-em-cabo-delgado/?fbclid=IwAR1Jz8-iXnztDH8IIOMrI57x9iRN6h32028IKsLpmVIGIQHt899Yk9ZCo>

² <https://www.sadc.int/latest-news/statement-his-excellency-dr-hage-g-geingob-president-republic-namibia-and-chairperson>

³ <https://www.voaportugues.com/a/amnistia-internacional-exige-investigacao-e-medidas-ante-video-em-que-cadaveres-sao-queimados-em-cabo-delgado/6915042.html>

⁴ <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2023/01/mozambique-video-showing-soldiers-burning-corpses/>



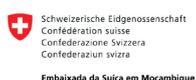
EDITORIAL INFORMATION

Property: CDD – Centro para Democracia e Desenvolvimento
Director: Prof. Adriano Nuvunga
Editor: Emídio Beula
Author: CDD
Layout: CDD

Address:
Rua de Dar-Es-Salaam Nº 279, Bairro da Sommerschild, Cidade de Maputo.
Telephone: +258 21 085 797

 CDD_moz
E-mail: info@cddmoz.org
Website: <http://www.cddmoz.org>

FINANCING PARTNERS



Embaixada da Suíça em Moçambique

