



# BOLETIM SOBRE DIREITOS HUMANOS

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## Illegal immigrants detained in inhumane conditions at the 18th Police Station of the PRM in Maputo

- Dozens of illegal immigrants from various African countries are being held in completely inhumane conditions in the cells of the 18th Police Station of the Republic of Mozambique (PRM), in the country's capital. The situation represents a serious breach of human rights, which is why it is urgent to create a commission of inquiry to investigate the case and determine the due responsibilities.



There are dozens of citizens of various nationalities, including Guineans, Senegalese, and Congolese who, for long months and, in some cases, years, have been crowded in the cells of the 18th Police Station of the PRM, located near the Command of the Rapid Intervention Unit (UIR), in an area commonly known as the “Brigada Montada”, on the outskirts of Maputo City.

Impressive images that the CDD had access to show young people lying on the floor, on pieces of boxes and fabric that act as cabins. They are, for the most part, young people who are crammed into a tiny, filthy compartment. The two small windows denounce deficiencies in the cell’s ventilation, which is critical in the current hot period.

By the way, in one of the videos, one of the detainees appears to be writhing and with signs of fainting in the tiny cell, while his companions try to revive him with rudimentary techniques, which include waving clothes. “He is dying here”, is heard among the group. In this video, at least three police officers in uniform are among the crowd of detainees. In another video, one of the detainees reports on the difficult conditions they go through.

“Oops, we’re here. The situation we are going through here inside the cell (...). See how people are sleeping here? A person who has been here for more than a year (...). The matter is not resolved or anything. They’re all sleeping on the floor. See it as we are living in here,” she says.

With the obvious filth in the cell, they even complain of being bitten by insects. “Little bugs are eating us here. We are having a bad time with bugs here”. Underneath a dramatic situation, the detainees have a request that they make a point of repeating as many times as they need: “We are asking you to help us, please. We are asking you to help us, please (...). We are asking for help. We are asking (...). Please, we are asking for help, we are asking for help for human rights. At least come in and see us here and how we are going through this situation. Please, we are asking you to at least send someone to help us here. We are feeling sick (...) Please”.

The images that the CDD had access to, simply show African citizens, but there are reports that citizens from other continents, especially Asians, also passed through the place, but without staying for long periods, allegedly thanks to the usual corruption schemes that is frequent in the administration of the justice and the entire Mozambican public administration.

With a finger pointing at the police authorities,

one of the detainees confirms extortion with the promise of release, but that never happens: “They take people’s money and don’t solve anything. They ate money from many people here and nothing is happening”.

The CDD understands that the conditions of detention of citizens are a serious violation of human dignity. Even more so when, even without underestimating the illegalities in which they are involved, the targets have not committed abhorrent crimes (as the kidnappers continue to walk the class, in the face of the criminal connivance of some State entities, above all the Police and SERNIC - National Security Service Criminal Investigation), but illegalities, in this case, undocumented entry into Mozambique, a country that has been used as a corridor to reach South Africa, the “El dorado” of many young people from various African countries.

Indeed, the CDD urges the creation of a commission of inquiry to, as soon as possible, investigate the situation of these citizens, which could lead to the clarification of the case and possible determination of responsibilities for the violation of human rights. What the Police cannot do is allow itself the luxury of continuing to treat human beings as if they were animals, with all the ensuing consequences.








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