

THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC IN THE UNITED NATIONS

Nyusi ignores the violent repression of marches and says young Mozambicans are free

- A week after referring to young people as “infiltrators” and “malicious people” who must be isolated and held accountable in an exemplary way, Filipe Nyusi went to the United Nations to say that young Mozambicans are free. What kind of freedom is that in a country where young people are prevented, using violence, from marching peacefully?



In its capacity as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, Mozambique assumed, during the month of March, the monthly rotating presidency of that body responsible for guaranteeing peace and security in the world. To mark the end of the Mozambican presidency, the President of the Republic was at the headquarters in New York where he participated in and led several reflection meetings on peace, security, terrorism and violent extremism. In the meetings, Filipe Nyusi reiterated the importance of dialogue to achieve peace and shared Mozambique's recent experience in achieving peace.

In an interview with UN News, a United Nations broadcaster, Nyusi was confronted with the revolt of young people in the face of violent repression by the Police against marches in tribute to rapper Azagaia. "Young people are free now. Speaks and maybe didn't have the same ease in the past. We are with the young people and now we have the situation that we all followed. And I already appeared to explain what the role of the Police is and the responsibility of the citizen in the face of the need to want to manifest. We hope that things will be corrected as part of the ongoing investigation at the Ministry of the Interior. I want to encourage young people to feel like they are masters of the homeland and the destinies of Mozambique", replied the President of the Republic¹.

The declaration that young people are free comes two weeks after violent police repression against unarmed young people who intended to march in the streets of the capital in honor of rapper Azagaia. In the first reaction he made at the Academy of Police Sciences (ACIPOL), Nyusi showed two faces: he rehearsed a condemnation of the violent behavior of the Police, but he did not do so in the most vigorous and convincing terms, he did not demarcate himself from violence and did not give any sign of that there would be political consequences for his government following recent events. "The work of the Police and other Defense and Security Forces involves extreme collaboration with all segments of society intending to safeguard public safety and the environment in which citizens can exercise their democratic rights and freedoms", he said.

The other side was that of a President who sponsors police violence against Mozambican citizens. Nyusi clearly said that he had directed the Ministry of the Interior to "identify those who seek to take advantage of the individual virtue of the young rapper Azagaia to achieve their goals". A rather dangerous "guideline" that reveals, once again, that the authoritarianism of the Mozambican State results from



guidelines from a President of the Republic who swore to respect and enforce the CRM. The "guideline" that Filipe Nyusi left to the Ministry of the Interior encourages the Police and other State security forces to violate the fundamental rights and freedoms of citizens.

A President of the Republic who directs State institutions, in this case, the Ministry of the Interior, to identify young people from civil society and members of opposition parties who participated in the march should not, a week later, declare that these same young people are free. How does a free young man get hit by the police and lose an eye just because he was on a peaceful march? Free young people are those who two weeks ago were abused and prevented from marching, even with the consent of the municipal authorities? Are free

young people the ones that the President of the Republic labeled as "infiltrators" and "malicious people" who should be isolated and held accountable in an exemplary way?

The young people who are free and who speak with an ease that they had not experienced before are the same ones that the Police General Command identified as "individuals linked to political parties, civil society and non-governmental organizations". Is there freedom in a State where young people who want to exercise their rights and freedoms provided for in the Constitution are violated by the Police? The free young people referred to by the President of the Republic include those who, whenever they need to exercise their citizenship rights, are forced to retreat for fear of tear gas, bullets and police dogs.

¹https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cBwr_auv7wl



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