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Police Attack Protesters in Quelimane, Including Mayor Prof. Dr. Manuel de Araújo and His Wife



- Mozambique's political crisis has reached a new critical point with a recent attack by the Mozambique Police Force against peaceful protesters on November 13, 2024, in the city of Quelimane, Zambézia province. In this incident, captured on video by a bystander, the mayor of Quelimane, Prof. Dr. Manuel de Araújo, and his wife were targeted by police violence during a protest, part of the fourth phase of demonstrations that began on Wednesday, November 13, and are scheduled to end on Friday, November 15.



The Incident

Since the October 2024 elections, Mozambique has witnessed a series of protests expressing popular discontent over allegations of electoral fraud. In response, the government has intensified repression, with actions that constitute an abuse of power and human rights violations.

In a widely shared video on social media, the harsh face of this repression is evident. Protesters are seen fleeing as tear gas is fired by poli-

ce, displaying a clear use of disproportionate force against peaceful demonstrators, including prominent figures like Prof. Dr. Manuel de Araújo, a long-standing advocate for civil rights and democracy in Mozambique. The presence of his wife among the injured demonstrates the indifference of security forces towards the safety of citizens, regardless of their roles or social positions.

An Attack on the Rule of Law and Democracy

The attack on a democratically elected mayor is a direct attack on the country's democratic structure. Known for his critical stance and advocacy for transparency and justice, Prof. Dr. Manuel de Araújo represents a leadership that challenges the status quo. Attacking him during a peaceful demonstration is an attempt not only to silence his voice but also the voices of all Mozambican citizens demanding justice and change.

Moreover, this incident reveals a disturbing trend of authoritarianism and repression in the country. The use of force against civilians and the suppression of legitimate protests are clear signs that the rule of law is being undermined in Mozambique. Rather than protecting citizens' rights to free expression and peaceful assembly, the police are being used as tools of intimidation, aimed at stifling opposition and any pro-democracy movement.



The Need for Urgent Denunciation and Action

The violence in Quelimane reflects the repressive situation across the country. Only a united response can bring hope to the Mozambican people, who are currently living in fear of reprisals for exercising their basic rights. The response from international institutions, civil society, and Mozambicans themselves is crucial to prevent Mozambique from further descending into au-

thoritarianism and to restore faith in justice and human rights.

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Building a democratic society that promotes, protects, respect human rights & transform people's lives.

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