

Political Crisis and Post-Electoral Violence in Mozambique: The Silence of Dialogue and the Escalation of Repression

- In less than two months, Mozambique is experiencing one of the worst Human Rights crises since it embarked on multiparty democracy more than 30 years ago. With 128 deaths, over a thousand injured, and thousands of arbitrary arrests, the current scenario is marked by repression, post-electoral violence, and the absence of genuine political dialogue.



The Rejection of Dialogue

Since the beginning of the general strike on October 21, Frelimo's position has been clear: no openness to dialogue before the proclamation of election results by the Constitutional Council. The President of the Republic (PR), Filipe Nyusi, who is also the president of Frelimo, attempted a dialogue with the four presidential candidates: Lutero Simango of the Democratic Movement of Mozambique (MDM), Daniel Chapo of Frelimo, Venâncio Mondlane, supported by the Optimistic People for the Development of Mozambique Party (PODEMOS), and Ossufo Momade of Renamo. However, this dialogue failed due to

the absence of Venâncio Mondlane, who remains outside the country for security reasons. Recently, in a live broadcast, Mondlane stated that he presented what he called terms of reference for the dialogue but received no response from the PR.

This stance reflects a historical pattern, since 1999, of governing without inclusion, against the popular will, and without addressing the people's aspirations. Frelimo continues to benefit from fraudulent elections and maintains power without room for political negotiations.

The Constitutional Council's Maneuvers

The Constitutional Council (CC) has undertaken, since last week, actions that appear to legitimize the electoral results already presented by the National Election Commission (CNE). These actions include meetings with opposition political parties and interviews with media outlets, essentially to spread the message that protests against electoral fraud are unfounded, allegedly because neither the opposition nor election observers have evidence that the elections were fraudulent.

However, there are suspicions that the results could be altered to accommodate Renamo and its presidential candidate, Ossufo Momade, placing him in second place at the expense of Venâncio Mondlane, the PODEMOS candidate. This move would transfer the current conflict to the opposition's field, leaving Frelimo in a stable position to continue governing, despite fraudulent results.



The Strategy of Repression

Sources indicate that Frelimo is prepared to continue repressing the protests led by Venâncio Mondlane, using state institutions and security forces. This strategy is justified based on experience gained in past crises, such as those faced against Afonso Dhlakama, Renamo's historic leader.

Frelimo as the "Victim"

The recent wave of violence associated with the protests favors Frelimo's narrative, which seeks to portray itself as the victim of the demonstrations while minimizing its responsibility for the electoral fraud that triggered the crisis.

Absence of Dialogue and Inclusion

The broader picture indicates that the current maneuvers, which include the failed dialogue with presidential candidates and consultations with various social segments, are mere public relations strategies to legitimize the electoral results and consolidate Frelimo's power. There is no real intention for inclusive dialogue. Frelimo appears prepared to govern, confronting protests through repression, perpetuating a cycle of violence and exclusion, as happened in 1999 after what was the worst electoral fraud in Mozambique's history.

Conclusion

The political and Human Rights crisis in Mozambique exposes a scenario of growing repression and exclusionary governance. Without dialogue, without inclusion, and with the continuous instrumentalization of institutions, the country is moving towards governance based on repression and security control. The international community and Mozambican citizens must remain vigilant and demand transparency, justice, and a government that reflects the true will of the people.

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