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The visit of the President of the Assembly of the Republic of Mozambique to Rwanda further solidifies the controversial relations developed by Filipe Nyusi with the Kigali regime

- Esperança Bias, the President of the Mozambican Parliament, visited the Republic of Rwanda from April 5th to 9th. According to a statement from the Assembly of the Republic, the visit was made at the invitation of her counterpart, Donatille Mukabalisa. On Saturday, April 6th, Esperança Bias held an official meeting with Donatille Mukabalisa, during which they reviewed the memorandum of parliamentary cooperation signed in June 2022 in Maputo, when Mukabalisa visited Mozambique. While still in Kigali, Bias participated in the commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the 1994 Rwandan Genocide, representing the President of the Republic, Filipe Nyusi.



Credits: MZNews

The visit of the President of the Mozambican Parliament to Rwanda solidifies the relationship that Mozambique developed during Filipe Nyusi's presidency with the Kigali regime. However, it is a controversial relationship characterized by different interests from both sides. Publicly, Mozambique's interest lies in Rwanda's assistance in combating terrorism and

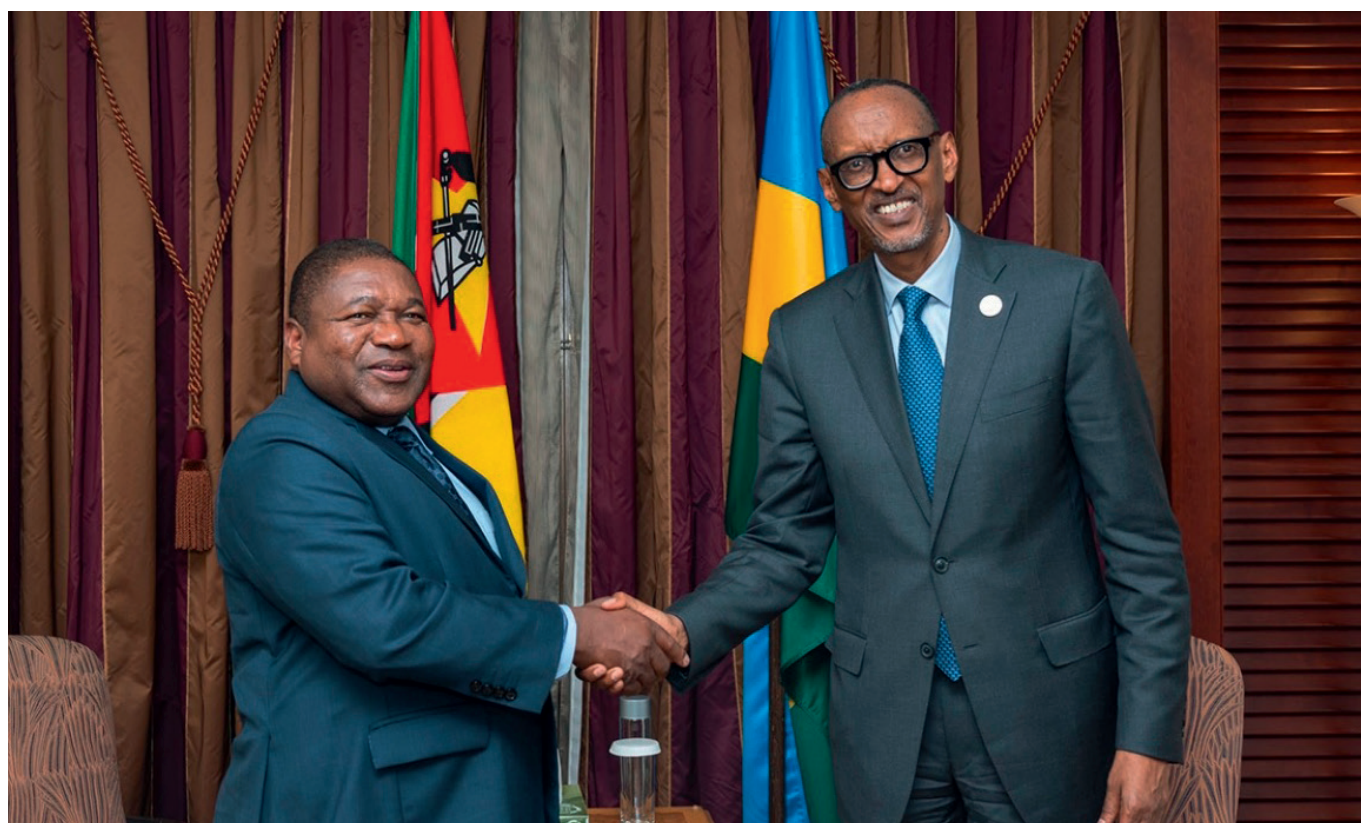
violent extremism in Cabo Delgado. Conversely, Rwanda seeks economic gains in the gas sector and authorization from Maputo for the persecution of Rwandan refugees in Mozambique. The alignment between Filipe Nyusi and Paul Kagame is concerning for Mozambicans due to the Kigali regime's disregard for democratic principles and human rights.

The relationship between Kigali and Maputo during Filipe Nyusi's presidency.

In 2019, the Rwandan embassy was opened in Maputo amidst kidnappings and killings of prominent Rwandan refugees in Mozambique. The establishment of the embassy was perceived by Rwandan refugees as exacerbating their insecurity in Mozambique, particularly following the appointment of Claude Nikobisanzwe as High Commissioner who was expelled from South Africa in 2014. He held the position of Rwandan High Commissioner to South Africa at the time when Patrick Karegeya, the former chief of Rwandan intelligence services, was found dead in a Johannesburg hotel. Following the embassy's installation, numerous Rwandan refugees in Mozambique were killed or abducted.

For instance, in 2019, Louis Baziga was assassinated with a firearm on Av. da OUA, known as the "Old Road," near the "Midas" store in Matola City.

On September 13, 2021, Revocant Karemangingo, Vice-President of the Association of Rwandan Refugees in Mozambique (ARRM), was fatally shot near his residence in the Liberdade neighborhood of Matola City. Karemangingo tragically became the first victim of the Rwandan death squad following the entry of Rwandan troops into Mozambique. Additionally, in 2021, specifically in May, the Rwandan community reported the forced disappearance of journalist Ntamuhanga Cassien, who was in exile on Inhaca Island in Maputo City. Cassien, aged 37,



Credits: Rádio Moçambique

was abducted by a group of eight individuals who identified themselves as PRM agents. Subsequently, information surfaced indicating that Ntamuhanga Cassien had been (illegally) extradited to Rwanda to serve a 25-year sentence imposed in 2017 for conspiracy against the government and complicity in terrorist acts, following a politically motivated trial.

While actions by the Rwandan death squads intensified during Filipe Nyusi's presidency, the first victim was made in 2002 with the assassination of Théogène Turatsinz.

In 2021, Kigali deployed its troops to Cabo Delgado, focusing primarily on the Afungi gas project, without clear gains for Rwanda. The relationship between Nyusi and Kagame is so close that the troops from the Southern African Development Community Mission in Mozambique (SAMIM) have already started withdrawing from Cabo Delgado due to a lack of funds. However, Rwandan troops are set to continue their presence, possibly deploying additional forces to cover the operational area of the regional SAMIM. This disparity suggests that the support and attention received by Rwandan troops under Filipe Nyusi's administration are not mirrored for SAMIM.

On June 3, 2022, in Kigali, the capital of Rwanda, two agreements were signed by the state minister for Constitutional and Legal Affairs of Rwanda, Nyirahabamina Soline, and by the Minister of Justice, Constitutional and Religious Affairs of Mozambique, Helena Kida. These are the Extradition Agreement and the Agreement on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, whose approval by the Council of Ministers was made in February 2023 and ratified by the Assembly of the Republic in March 2024, legalizing the persecution of Rwandan refugees in

Mozambique.

This persecution of Rwandan refugees in Mozambique is condoned by the Maputo regime, led by Filipe Nyusi, which places Mozambique in conflict with its international obligations, particularly the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees of July 28, 1951, ratified on October 22, 1983, the Organization of African Unity Convention, and the additional Protocol to the Geneva Convention on the Status of Refugees of January 31, 1967. These agreements collectively affirm that refugees are entitled, in principle, to the rights and responsibilities of foreign residents in the Republic of Mozambique. Additionally, refugees should enjoy any rights not applicable to general foreigners, as stipulated in the United Nations Convention of July 28, 1951, its additional Protocol of January 31, 1967, and the OAU Convention of September 10, 1969.



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