

ATTACK ON THE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS

Criminals use homemade bomb and set fire to the facilities of Canal de Moçambique



Around 8pm on Sunday, August 23rd, unknown people, so far, broke into Canalmoz and Canal de Moçambique newspaper facilities, poured fuel on all the furniture and computers and set off a homemade bomb. The fire reduced to ashes all the goods that were in the facilities where the most critical newspaper to the Government

of Frelimo was produced.

The attack occurred four days after the weekly Canal de Moçambique published a report on influence peddling and the disputes of political elites for the control of the fuel marking business, estimated at 2.5 billion meticaís. The Ministry of Mineral Resources and Energy (MIREME) was forced to



suspend the tender that had been awarded to the consortium formed by Authentix, Inc.; Serviços de Autenticação de Combustíveis de Moçambique, SA; and Our Corridor Logistics, Lda. The suspension came about as a result of a complaint by competitor SICPA, SA, the Swiss capital company that has already been providing fuel marking services in Mozambique, after winning the 2017 tender and signing the respective contract with the Government valid for two years (August 2018

- August 2020).


The Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD) strongly condemns the attack on the facilities of Canalmoz and Canal de Moçambique and expresses its solidarity with the owners and employees of both publications. This attack represents a serious blow to the freedom of the press, one of the foundations of democracy. For this reason, CDD demands a serious and in-depth investigation into this attack against democracy.



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