

Rwandan refugees denounce the Kigali regime's target list and call for intervention by the Mozambican state

- The Rwandan community living in Mozambique denounces the existence of a list of 20 Rwandan refugees to be eliminated by Paul Kagame's Government death squads. The list was drawn up by the Kigali regime and includes Rwandan refugees who are in Mozambique and other African countries. The denunciation was made on Friday during the roundtable on "The right to life and safety of Rwandan refugees in Mozambique", organised by the Centro para Democracia e Desenvolvimento/ Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD), in partnership with the Mozambican Network of Human Rights Defenders (RMDDH).



The roundtable discussion takes place 10 days after the shooting murder of Revocant Karemangingo, vice president of the Rwandan Refugees Association in Mozambique (ARRM), which occurred on 13 September, near his home at the Liberdade area, Matola City. Revocant Karemangingo worked as a trader in many areas and employed over 200 Mozambicans. As happened in other murders and forced disappearances of Rwandan refugees in Mozambique, the case of the ARRM Vice President is not being seriously investigated by the Mozambican authorities and the perpetrator will never be known.

Speaking at the roundtable, ARRM President Cleophas Habiwareme said that persecution of Rwandan refugees happens in almost every country in Africa. "There are many killings of people from our community, but there has never been justice. We know that there are lists that are circulating indicating the people who must be killed." He said that his compatriot Revocant Karemangingo was part of Rwandan intellectuals group, journalists and businessmen who have been persecuted by the Kigali government in several African countries for opposing President Paul Kagame. In addition to demanding justice from the Mozambican authorities, the President of ARRM urges for an intervention of the international community, justifying that the persecution and murder of Rwandan refugees also happens in South Africa, Burundi, Uganda and Kenya.

A Rwandan refugee who identified himself by the name of Alex, 40, said he arrived in Mozambique in December 2003, after passing through Congo, Malawi and Tanzania. "I was well received in Mozambique. I started working, I know many Mozambicans and I have my family here. Nevertheless, for two years we have been living in fear because of the persecution we are victims of. Alex tells that his name is on the Kigali list and he is one of the targets of Paul Kagame's regime. "I have done nothing to be on that list. There is nothing I have done against my country. Even if I had committed a crime, the right thing would be to put me on trial. Why can't I be tried? Can Mozambique help us? Is there no justice here in Mozambique? We live in fear and this cannot go on like this.

Speaking about the recent murder of a Rwandan refugee in Matola, Alex said that the Rwandan community already knew that Revocant Karemangingo was being persecuted for two months, and he even travelled to South Africa, where he stayed for some time, fleeing threats. He returned to Mozambique on 09 September 2021, and four days later, he was murdered. His persecution was reported to the



Mozambican authorities, but nothing was done to prevent the assassination. "He was killed near his house. His children saw everything. How are they going to be? This cannot go on like this. Killing a person like a chicken is not justice. We ask for justice. I lost my brother in Mozambique. My older brother was burnt in his shop in Magoanine, Maputo City, and lost his life a week later. However, until today we do not know who did it, the case has not been clarified. There is no justice".

Another Rwandan citizen present at the roundtable said that his name is also on the list of the people who must be killed. "They say I killed many people in Rwanda, but I never took anyone's life. On Rwandan public television they talk about our names as if we were wanted criminals."

Before settling in Mozambique, he says he escaped a kidnapping in South Africa and believes the kidnappers were carrying out orders from Kigali. "The day after Revocant Karemangingo's murder, a car with tinted windows appeared and the occupants started filming my house. Whenever we see cars with tinted windows on the road we get scared".

The opening of a Rwandan embassy in Maputo in 2019 is seen by Rwandan refugees as one of the factors that has worsened their safety in Mozambique. The Rwanda's High Commissioner to Mozambique is called Claude Nikobisanzwe, and is the same diplomat who in 2014 was expelled from South Africa for suspected involvement in the murder of Patrick Karegeya, the former head of Rwanda's intelligence



service found dead in a Johannesburg hotel. “Mozambique received us, granted us refugee status and we are grateful. We came to Mozambique fleeing persecution in Rwanda, but now we are being persecuted here. Mozambique should talk to the Government of Rwanda and demand an end to the persecution of Rwandan citizens in its territory.”

A Mozambican woman named Mércia Munguambe lost her husband in 2016 from the death squads who mistook him

for a Rwandan. “I lost my husband on 7 April 2016 and so far I don’t know what happened. He was at a Rwandan friend’s house. Justice has not been done. I would like to know exactly what is happening. Why this war, why all this persecution?”

In May 2021, the Rwandan community reported the enforced disappearance of journalist Ntamuhanga Cassien, who was in exile on Inhaca Island, Maputo City. Cassien, 37, was reportedly abducted by a group of eight (8) people who identified

themselves as PRM (Police of the Republic Of Mozambique) agents. He had refugee status with Identification/Registration Card No. 367-00020491 issued by the National Institute for Refugees on 26 April 2021. Information later circulated that Ntamuhanga Cassien had been extradited to Rwanda to serve a 25-year sentence he was sentenced to in 2017 for crimes of conspiracy against the government and complicity in terrorist act in a politically motivated case

“We do not want Kigali lists here and we demand that the African Union initiate an independent investigation,” Adriano Nuvunga

Speaking at the roundtable, CDD Director Adriano Nuvunga lamented the existence of a list with names of Rwandan refugees targeted by Paul Kagame’s regime. “Who has to die? And why? Who has to take the life of the other? We have to protect the Rwandans just

as we protect all the communities that are in Mozambique. The more than four thousand Rwandans with refugee status have lived with us in Mozambique for more than two decades. Many have developed small businesses to support their families and employ Mozam-

bicans. We do not want lists coming from Kigali here. We do not want lists from Kigali here. Mozambique is a free country. We are a sovereign State and sovereignty is exercised by protecting the nationals and those who chose our Country to live in”.

Nuvunga advocates the involvement of regional and continental organisations in the investigation of the killings, enforced disappearances and persecution of Rwandan refugees. “Mozambique is part of SADC and the African Union and these international mechanisms exist not to protect the leaders, but the communities. This community of Rwandans today lives in fear, feels threatened and unprotected. It is mandatory that the African Union initiate a serious and independent investigation into the situation of Rwandans and mechanisms exist for that.”

The CDD Director recalled that Mozam-

bique is a democratic rule of law based on respect for the rights, freedoms and fundamental guarantees of citizens under its responsibility, within the framework of protection and promotion of human rights (articles 1, 3 and 11, paragraph e) of the CRM (Constitution of the Republic of Mozambique)). “The Mozambican State is signatory to various instruments for the protection and promotion of human rights, such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights (ACHPR), and the United

Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees”.

The roundtable discussion on “The right to life and safety of Rwandan refugees in Mozambique” was held on the day the Rwandan President landed in Pemba for a two-day visit to Mozambique. Paul Kagame went to Cabo Delgado to greet Rwandan troops who have been supporting Mozambican forces in the fight against violent extremism for two months. On Saturday, Paul Kagame was a guest of honour at the central ceremonies of the celebrations of 25 September, the Day of the Armed Forces for the Defence of Mozambique.



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