



WHO LIMITS IMPUNITY IN THE PRM?

Police shoot again two more people in Tete and now there are five victims in less than two months

In the city of Tete, two citizens aged between 35 and 40 have been under medical care since last week as a result of having been shot by a police officer of the Republic of Mozambique (PRM) in the Cambine market in Tete province.



According to witnesses, it all started when one of the victims wanted to buy a 50 meticais cell phone recharge in a commercial establishment owned by the police officer. He paid with a 100 meticais and then demanded his change.

Following the collection, there was a disagreement and the two started a physical aggression.

It was at this moment that the salesman, a PRM agent by the way, pulled out the gun he was carrying and shot the customer, hitting him in the left leg. The second victim, a lady, was not involved in the fight, but was shot in the right leg while walking in a street close to the scene.

The first question that arises is whether the officer was authorized to carry the gun on days



when he was off duty. Even if he did have a permit, the fact that the officer took the gun into his business establishment, where he interacts with his customers and the general public, is questionable. It is clear that in a situation of disagreement with customers, the risk of using the gun to impose his authority is greater.

Contacted by the television channel “Tv Sucesso” to talk about the shooting of two defenseless citizens, the PRM Command in Tete did not agree to make any statements. It is incomprehensible how the PRM Command is avoiding its duty to clarify the citizens about a shameful case of human rights violation. Regardless of what really happened, the actions of the PRM agent is an abuse of power and a violation of human rights.

Nothing justifies an off-duty officer using a firearm to impose his authority on defenseless people. The agent’s behavior clearly shows that he is not prepared to carry and use a gun.

In less than two months, PRM has shot five defenseless people, three of whom did not resist the shots. In March, agents of the PRM fatally shot two people who were participating in a demonstration in the administrative post of Coromana, dis-

trict of Molumbo, Zambezia province¹. In the first week of the current month, also, they shot again another deadly victim. This time the victim was a 16 year old teenager, shot by the police in the 25 de Junho district, Chimoio city, Manica province².

The cases of human rights violations by the police happen repeatedly due to the impunity that prevails in the PRM and in the justice institutions, particularly the Attorney General’s Office (PGR), the holder of criminal prosecution. The agents are not held accountable for the excessive use of force; there is no accountability for physical assaults and killings of defenseless civilians; there is no accountability for the unjustified and abusive prevention of the enjoyment of rights and freedoms enshrined in the CRM, especially the right to freedom of demonstration.

The role of the Police is to guarantee law and order, safeguard the security of people and property, public tranquility, respect for the democratic rule of law, and the strict observance of the fundamental rights and freedoms of citizens, as established in the Constitution of the Republic of Mozambique (CRM), in paragraph 1 of Article 253 of the Constitution, and in paragraph 3 of

¹ <https://cddmoz.org/cdd-condena-assassinato-a-tiro-e-exige-responsabilizacao-criminal-dos-agentes-envolvidos-e-demissao-dos-respectivos-comandantes-2/>

² <https://cddmoz.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Policia-volta-a-usar-armas-de-guerra-para-dispersar-manifestantes-e-mata-a-tiro-um-menor-em-Chimoio.pdf?fbclid=IwAR3IIZSYR5aXUJ8uRPH1ADJhxIR0YsJuikHGZr9tWGgQld8iksR5zk5RrWE>

the same article, which states that in the exercise of its functions, the Police shall obey the law and shall serve citizens and public and private institutions with exemption and impartiality.

But the reality on the ground shows that the Police have been rudely violating the CRM and other laws in force in the Republic of Mozambique, as well as international protocols for the protection and defense of human rights to which the Mozambican state is a signatory, such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Ri-

ghts. What is even more serious is that human rights violations, particularly the right to life, are committed by agents of the State that have the primary responsibility to protect citizens and ensure the enjoyment of the rights and freedoms enshrined in the CRM.

The CDD condemns the actions of the agent who shot two people in Tete and demands that he be held criminally responsible and expelled from the ranks of PRM. The State has a duty to compensate the two victims who are receiving hospital treatment.



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