



Mocímboa da Praia authorities again threaten officials to return to the village on May 15



MUNICIPIO DA VILA DE MOCIMBOA DA PRAIA
CONSELHO MUNICIPAL

GABINETE DO PRESIDENTE

Assunto: INFORMACÃO

O Conselho Municipal da vila de Mocimboa da praia, representado pelo seu Presidente **Cheia Carlos Momba**. Informa a todos funcionarios deste Instituição, que no domingo dia 15 de Maio do ano em curso, deverão se apresentarem na vila municipal de Mueda, a fim de seguir a Mocimboa da Praia. Emforma-se ainda, que a viatura estará disponível no local, para os devidos efeito.

NB: A ausência do funcionario, merecera as medidas Administrativas.
Recomenda –se a pontualidade de todos.

Cordiais saudações.

Mocimboa da Praia, 05 de Maio 2022.



- The Municipal Council of Mocímboa da Praia has given a deadline of 10 days for all employees to return to that municipal town - which was recovered in August 2021 after having remained almost a year in the hands of violent extremists. Through a statement issued last Thursday, May 5, Cheia Carlos Momba, the Mayor, called on all the employees of the municipality to present themselves on May 15 in the municipal village of Mueda, where they should take transport to go to Mocímboa da Praia.



“The Municipal Council of the village of Mocímboa da Praia, represented by its Mayor Cheia Carlos Momba, informs all employees of this institution that on Sunday, May 15, 2022, they should present themselves in the municipal village of Mueda in order to proceed to Mocímboa da Praia,” reads the statement.

The document ends with a threat: “The absence of the official will result in administrative measures. The communication from the Mayor Cheia Carlos Momba does not say what kind of “administrative measures” will be taken against employees who, for whatever reason, do not present themselves on May 15.

This is not the first time that the local authorities of the districts affected by violent extremism in northern Cabo Delgado summon officials to

present themselves to their respective institutions, under penalty of being sanctioned. The summons of officials are made in a context where there are still no security conditions for the return of populations to the villages, administrative posts and localities that had been occupied by violent extremists.

Last March, a brigade of the Council of Ministers stated that the conditions for the return of displaced populations to their areas of origin had not yet been created¹. The Minister of Labor and Social Security, who headed the central government brigade that went to the districts affected by violent extremism to assess the conditions for the return of populations, pointed to the lack of means of transportation and work, as well as the cleanliness of towns and villages as

¹ <https://cddmoz.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Governo-reconhece-falta-de-condicoes-para-o-retorno-seguro-das-familias-a-vila-da-Mocimboa-da-Praia.pdf>



Abudo Gafuro, Human Rights Defender in Cabo Delgado



Milda Quaria, Journalist and social activist

other factors that make the return of displaced families impossible.

“Some prejudices still persist on the part of public officials. We understand that there is a trauma due to what they went through, and we recognize the urgent need for rehabilitation of infrastructure and allocation of means of work, especially circulating means, including ambulances,” said Margarida Talapa². According to the newspaper *Carta de Moçambique*³, the Minister also referred to the existence of what she called “failures in the consolidation of security in areas affected” by violent extremism.

In fact, despite the recovery of district towns, administrative posts and villages by the joint forces of Mozambique, Rwanda and SADC, violent extremism is still present in Cabo Delgado. For example, last Friday, a group of more than 10 insurgents attacked the headquarters of the administrative post of Olumbe, Palma district, without, however, causing any fatalities⁴.

This is the first attack registered in the territory under the control of Rwandan forces since the capture of Mocímboa da Praia town and the administrative posts of Mbau in Mocímboa da Praia and Pundandar in Palma district.

This week, the provincial commander of PRM in Cabo Delgado, Vicente Chicote, confirmed the occurrence of attacks by violent extremists in the districts of Macomia and Nangade. “The fight against terrorism continues, and we continue to battle against the last strongholds of the enemy, which at the moment are located in the district of Macomia and Nangade”⁵.

Nevertheless, the authorities announced that last week more than 1,500 people returned to their homes in the locality of Auasse and in the village of Mocímboa da Praia. “We want to stress one thing that has been said out there: they say that the authorities are forcing people to return to their areas of origin. There is no obligation for the people to return to their areas of origin, we simply announce the state of security in those places and the people themselves think they should return”⁶.

Speaking at the launching ceremony of CDD’s annual report on “Conflict Resolution in Cabo Delgado and Resolution Dialogue in 2022 and Beyond,” held last week in Maputo, Abudo Gafuro, a human rights defender in Cabo Delgado, said populations are not returning to their areas of origin due to fear of extreme violence. “When

² <https://cartamz.com/index.php/politica/item/10202-ataques-em-cabo-delgado-governo-diz-ser-cedo-ainda-para-o-regresso-da-populacao-as-suas-aldeias>

³ <https://cartamz.com/index.php/politica/item/10202-ataques-em-cabo-delgado-governo-diz-ser-cedo-ainda-para-o-regresso-da-populacao-as-suas-aldeias>

⁴ https://cartamz.com/index.php/politica/item/10592-aldeias-em-palma-voltam-a-sofrer-ataques-terroristas?fbclid=IwAR0Zotl8b2_UkTX_dIQGuCbF5Xzy4P42WmTnO-V5YUloalqeOX599zb90nU

⁵ <https://www.opais.co.mz/terroristas-continuam-em-macomia-e-nangade/>

⁶ <http://zumbofm.com/index.php/noticias/item/4790-cabo-delgado-cerca-de-1500-pessoas-regressam-as-suas-zonas-de-origem-em-mocimboa-da-praia>



our young volunteers ask displaced people what they need to return to their areas of origin, they answer by saying that they don't trust the military of the Armed Defense Forces of Mozambique. They say that if the state itself did not trust the FADM and went and got the Rwandans to defend us, then they can only return if there are guarantees that the Rwandans will be there to defend them."

Abudo Gafuro explained that at the moment, the families that have returned to the village of Palma are not those who were in Pemba or in Montepuez. "The population that has returned to Palma village is the one that was close by, it had not gone out of the district. It was on the island of Namadingo and in Quitunda. People are afraid to return to their homes because they have seen scenes of extreme violence, such as beheading of family members by the insurgents and human rights violations by the Defense and Security Forces. This has left many people traumatized."

For her part, Milda Quaria, journalist and social activist, spoke of the importance of deep dialogue with the populations. "I am from Cabo Delgado and I feel in my skin the pain that my brothers, uncles and neighbors have been going

through since 2017. As citizens of Cabo Delgado we are reporting evidence of insurgency since the years 2002 and 2003. I, in particular, started reporting from the years 2012 and 2013, but we were never taken seriously. So far the military intervention has had good results. But now it is important to know what is the next step? It is important that there is a deep conversation with the people of Cabo Delgado. Cabo Delgado needs to be heard, the communities need to participate in the spaces for dialogue".

The journalist and social activist defended the need to promote an environment of trust between the Government, the Defense and Security Forces and the communities of Cabo Delgado. "The communities know who is in the bush, but for lack of trust they end up remaining silent. The Government, the Defense and Security Forces, and civil society should have a solid relationship with the population, they should transmit trust to them, so that people can collaborate. We have had several human rights violations, so it is important that we reflect on this so that the communities know that there are those who feel their pain, and they can be feel free to express their pain."



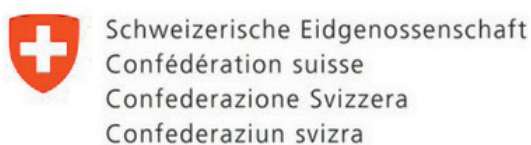
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