



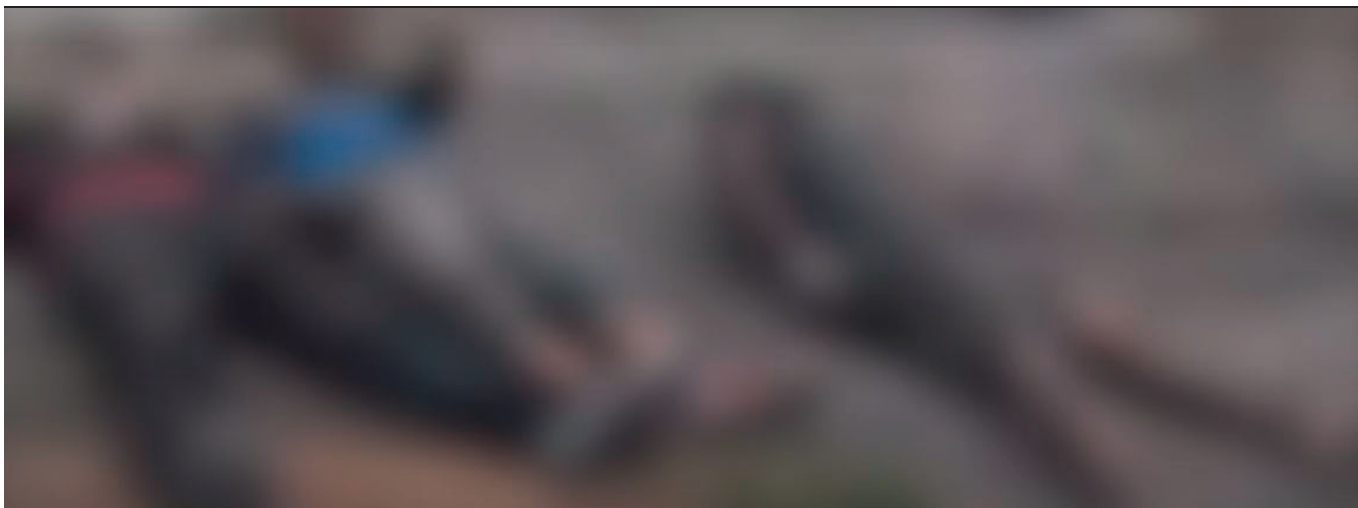
CDD condemns the shooting murder of five prisoners in Zambezia and demands accountability and compensation to the families

- Last Monday, June 13, a prison guard shot seven inmates at the penitentiary in Milange district, Zambezia province. Of the seven inmates hit, two died on the spot and three others were lost on the way to the hospital due to the severity of their injuries. Only two had minor injuries and survived. Quoted by the press, the Milange district penitentiary authorities explained that the inmates attempted a mass escape at the time dinner was being served. To prevent the escape, the prison guard fired in the air, but the inmates did not retreat, according to the explanation of Joel dos Santos, director of the Zambezia prison¹.



Some relatives of the inmates shot dead in Milange

¹ <https://www.jornalnoticias.co.mz/destaque/policia-atinge-cinco-reclusos-em-motim-na-zambezia/>



Bodies of inmates shot dead



Milange prison



Joel dos Santos, director of the Zambézia Penitentiary

Faced with the supposed resistance of the inmates who were trying to escape, the prison guard shot at close range, causing the death of five of them. “Some inmates attempted a mass escape. It is not known how many there were, but there were many. In an attempt to contain the escape, the officer fired shots into the air, but since the inmates did not comply, he ended up hitting seven inmates. Of these seven, two died in the field, three were hit with some severity, and the other two were hit lightly. When they were taken to the hospital, the seriously wounded also died”², hours later. said Joel dos Santos.

All the inmates shot by the prison guard were in preventive custody, that is, they had not yet been condemned for the crimes they were indicted and/or accused of. Therefore, the five prisoners still enjoyed the presumption of innocence, but they were summarily executed by a state

agent who was supposed to look after their safety. The Milange district penitentiary has capacity for 150 prisoners, but until Monday (June 13) there were 282 in that prison. The penitentiary officials say that at the time of the incident there were two prison guards on duty. That is, only two guards were protecting a prison with 282 inmates. An average of 141 prisoners for each prison guard.

During the visit to Milange, the Secretary of State of Zambezia province found out that, in fact, only one prison guard was on duty on that fateful Monday. An establishment with 282 prisoners, without electricity for months, was being watched by a single prison guard. This situation shows that there was sloppiness and negligence on the part of the management of the Milange district penitentiary. Therefore, in addition to the accountability of the prison guard who shot at the inmates, the entire management of the jail

² <https://www.rm.co.mz/zambezia-5-reclusos-mortos-por-guarda-prisional-na-tentativa-de-fuga-em-milange/>

should also be held accountable.

The neglect of those in charge of the penitentiary was one of the factors that made possible this flagrant violation of human rights, especially the right to life. The state should be called upon to assume civil responsibility by paying due compensation to the bereaved families. It is serious when the crimes of murdering civilians are committed by agents of the state who have the responsibility of protecting citizens and ensuring the enjoyment of the rights and freedoms

enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of Mozambique and other laws, including the right to life.

What is even more serious is that the prisoners were shot inside the prison, which shows that they were not yet on the run. Instead of shooting at close range, the prison guard should activate other mechanisms, such as requesting support from the Police of the Republic of Mozambique (PRM). It was possible to avoid the tragic events at the Milange penitentiary.



Milange



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