



BOLETIM SOBRE DIREITOS HUMANOS



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Massacre at the Central Prison: Over 100 prisoners executed by security Forces

- The police commander-general, Bernardino Rafael, reported that during the mass escape operation at the Central Prison in Maputo, 33 prisoners were killed.



This figure refers to the victims who were killed during the operation, which, according to the commander-general himself, began inside the penitentiary and was not orchestrated externally. Of those who escaped, some were recaptured by security forces. After their recapture,

these prisoners were taken to a room inside the penitentiary, where a massacre took place. Over 100 recaptured prisoners were executed by the GOI (Intervention Operations Group), the UIR (Rapid Intervention Unit), and other defense and security forces.

IN TOTAL, THE CONFIRMED DEATH TOLL SURPASSES 130 PRISONERS, HIGHLIGHTING THE BRUTALITY AND SEVERITY OF THE ACTIONS CARRIED OUT BY THE SECURITY FORCES.

The Start of the Escape

The prisoners seized two AKM weapons from the Penitentiary Guard and took two guards hostage. When the police arrived and began shooting, the prisoners used the hostages as human shields, exposing them to stop the shooting. At that moment, the prisoners initiated a mass escape, with over 2,000 prisoners fleeing the prison. Preliminary data indicates that approximately 300 prisoners remained detained.

Police Action and Recapture of Prisoners

The security forces, including the GOI, the military, the UIR, and the regular police, conducted search operations and managed to recapture over 300 escaped prisoners.

The Massacre

After being recaptured, these prisoners were taken to a room inside the penitentiary. It was at this point, between the night of December 25 and the early hours of December 26, that the massacre began. Over 100 recaptured prisoners were executed by the GOI, the UIR, and other defense and security forces inside the penitentiary.

Impact on Families

When families arrived at the penitentiary to bring food to their detained relatives, they were directed to go to the Central Hospital. There, some found their relatives injured, while others were sent to the morgue, where many bodies remain unidentified. The morgues in Maputo and Tsalala are overcrowded with bodies, most of them linked to the massacre at the Central Prison in Maputo.

Conclusion

Thus, there are over 130 victims of the tragedy at the Central Prison and BO in Maputo. This episode strongly underscores the gravity of human rights violations and the systematic brutality employed by the security forces during and after the mass escape.

The death toll may still rise, as many of the injured are not receiving adequate medical care, further exacerbating the impact of this tragedy.

The families of the victims face a scenario of profound grief, uncertainty about the fate of their loved ones, and a search for answers amidst the silence of state institutions.

It is imperative that independent investigations are conducted, those responsible are held accountable, and measures are taken to prevent such atrocities from recurring.




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