



# BOLETIM SOBRE DIREITOS HUMANOS



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23RD CHIANGO POLICE STATION, IN THE CITY OF MAPUTO

## Video exposes shocking conditions and prolonged detentions in clear violation of human and fundamental rights

- Eighteen African citizens of various nationalities are being held at the 23rd Police Station in Chiango, some of whom have been detained for over eight years. According to a complaint received by the Center for Democracy and Human Rights (CDD), accompanied by a video released yesterday, Wednesday, March 25th, on the organization's social media, the situation presents an alarming scenario that questions respect for human and fundamental rights protected by the Constitution of the Republic of Mozambique. In this regard, CDD demands urgent intervention from the relevant authorities, particularly the Public Prosecutor's Office, the Ministry of the Interior, and the National Human Rights Commission.



According to a video recorded by one of the detainees, the individuals are being held in extremely degrading conditions that are incompatible with human dignity. The police station exhibits severe levels of unsanitary conditions, including accumulated garbage, overflowing septic tanks, and completely clogged toilets, with feces scattered in various areas.

These conditions, combined with reports of ill-treatment and the lack of medical assistance, constitute serious violations of fundamental rights, namely the right to life and to physical and moral integrity, as provided for in Article 40 of the Constitution of the Republic of Mozambique, which prohibits torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment and is being violated by the unsanitary conditions and the alleged ill-treatment, as well as

the right to health, as provided for in Article 89 of the Constitution of the Republic of Mozambique, which guarantees all citizens access to healthcare, a right that is being denied to the detainees.

At the sub-constitutional level, such practices violate provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure, which impose clear duties on the authorities, namely: guaranteeing the physical and moral integrity of detainees during state custody; ensuring minimum conditions of hygiene, sanitation, and safety in places of detention; and guaranteeing access to medical care whenever necessary.

The failure to fulfill these duties, particularly in a context of deprivation of liberty, exacerbates the State's responsibility and may constitute not only illegality but also disciplinary and criminal liability on the part of the agents involved.

## Prolonged detention

Concern also persists regarding the prolonged detention of individuals, for periods ranging from five to eight years without trial, which violates Articles 59 and 64 of the Constitution of the Republic of Mozambique, as well as the fundamental principles of the Criminal Procedure Code relating to due process and the limits of pretrial detention.

Given the seriousness of the facts described, CDD considers that this situation constitutes multiple violations of the Constitution of the Republic of Mozambique and the applicable criminal legislation, with particular emphasis on the violation of the ri-

ghts to physical and moral integrity, to health, and to dignified treatment in the context of detention.

CDD calls on the Ministry of the Interior, the National Migration Service, and the Public Prosecutor's Office to act urgently, ensuring: the immediate restoration of minimum conditions of dignity; the provision of urgent medical assistance to detainees; a rigorous investigation of allegations of mistreatment; and the accountability of the agents involved.

Human dignity cannot be relativized; the State must, in all circumstances, ensure respect for fundamental rights, regardless of individuals' nationality or migration status.









## MISSION:

*Inspiring and driving actions to protect human rights, strengthen democracy, and promote justice.*

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