



14 JANUARY 2025

Joint Regional Solidarity Communiqué on the Human Rights and Security Situation in Mozambique

The Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition (the Coalition), in collaboration with the Southern African Human Rights Defenders Network (Southern Defenders) and the Southern African People's Solidarity Network (SAPSN), convened a Joint Regional Solidarity Conference on Mozambique in Johannesburg, South Africa, on January 8, 2025. The purpose of the conference was to promote a comprehensive understanding of the human rights and security challenges in Mozambique and to foster collaborative regional solidarity efforts to support the Mozambican people during a time of significant humanitarian need and rising repression. Over 30 participants, including representatives from women's groups, trade unions, migrant experts, policymakers, human rights commissions, and faith-based organizations from across the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region, attended the event.

Here are the demands and commitments made during the conference:

1. We acknowledge the multifaceted causes of the crisis unfolding in Mozambique. This situation has arisen not only from the disputed October 9, 2024, elections, in which Daniel Chapo from the ruling Frelimo party was declared the winner over Venâncio Mondlane from the opposition Optimist Party for the Development of Mozambique, but also due to the concentration of wealth and economic power held by a narrow elite at the expense of the majority who are suffering. We also recognize the urgent challenges posed by the Cabo Delgado conflict and recent natural disasters, like Cyclone Chido.
2. We express our deep concern regarding the unrest that has led to the loss of over 200 lives, the destruction of property, and the displacement of thousands of Mozambicans into neighboring countries, including Malawi and Swaziland.
3. We advocate for the resolution of road blockages that hinder the free movement of goods and people across Mozambique to foster greater accessibility and connectivity.
4. We emphasize that the rising human rights violations cannot be disconnected from SADC's need to take a proactive and collective role in crisis prevention and management.
5. We stand united with the people of Mozambique in their aspiration for a democratic transition that allows for free expression and active participation in electoral processes.
6. We commit to creating an information desk/media depository aimed at facilitating information sharing and improving access to accurate updates on the situation in Mozambique.
7. We encourage all Coalition members, regional solidarity partners, labour organizations, churches, and progressive groups to join efforts in urging regional and international leaders to take urgent action to address the crisis in Mozambique, highlighting the broader socio-economic implications for the SADC region.

8. We commend SADC for appointing the SADC Panel of Elders to engage with the Government of Mozambique and prominent opposition leaders, providing necessary support to navigate the complexities of the post-election environment.
9. We call upon SADC to engage key civic actors, faith-based organizations, and private sector stakeholders in Mozambique, fostering a deeper understanding of the situation and developing a comprehensive dialogue framework to support the country's pursuit of peace, stability, and reform.
10. We believe that prioritizing political and electoral reforms in Mozambique is essential in reducing migration pressures on neighbouring countries, ultimately helping to prevent a regional crisis.

For comments and questions, please contact:

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