



Plenary sitting

B9-0300/2020

15.9.2020

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

with request for inclusion in the agenda for a debate on cases of breaches of human rights, democracy and the rule of law

pursuant to Rule 144 of the Rules of Procedure

on the humanitarian situation in Mozambique
(2020/2784(RSP))

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B9-0300/2020

**European Parliament resolution on the humanitarian situation in Mozambique
(2020/2784(RSP))**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,
 - having regard to the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union,
 - having regard to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights,
 - having regard to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
 - having regard to the Partnership Agreement between the Members of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States of the one part, and the European Community and its Member States, of the other part (the Cotonou Agreement), and the human rights clauses contained therein, in particular Article 9,
 - having regard, to the opinion adopted at the 87th session United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (UNWGAD), 27 April 2020–1 May 2020
 - having regard to the statement by The Chair of the European Parliament Delegation to the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, Carlos Zorrinho of 29th June 2020.
 - having regard to the European Council conclusions of 22th April 2020,
 - having regard to the EU Annual Report on Human Rights and Democracy in the World 2019 adopted by the European Council on 15 June 2020,
 - having regard to Rule 144 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas as of 22th June, a total of 7.9 million people is estimated to be in need of urgent humanitarian assistance in 2020 due to multiple shocks affecting the country: conflicts in the gas-rich northern province of Cabo Delgado, consequences of climate related natural disasters and COVID-19;
- B. whereas the humanitarian situation in Cabo Delgado has significantly deteriorated over the last six months due to insecurity and violence caused by both armed groups and national security forces; whereas violence in this area result in about 211,500 people internally displaced urgently in need for food and shelter;
- C. Whereas since October 2017, the northern districts of Cabo Delgado province have experienced appalling attacks by individuals believed to be members of an armed group known as “Al-Shabaab”. The attackers have invaded villages, set houses on fire, hacked villagers to death with machetes and looted their food; whereas in response, the government increased military presence in the region;

- D. Whereas, the result of an investigation published by Amnesty International on 9th September, analyzes evidence of serious human rights violations committed by security forces in Cabo Delgado province. whereas the report show the attempted beheading, torture and other ill-treatment of prisoners, the dismemberment of alleged opposition fighters, and possible extrajudicial executions, and the transport and discarding of a large number of corpses into apparent mass graves;
- E. Whereas *Canal de Moçambique* an independent newspaper has been under enormous government pressure due to its investigative articles critical to the government, including its work in Cabo Delgado; whereas an unidentified group broke into the offices of the newspaper and set fire to the premises;
- F. Whereas in the past months several journalists have been arbitrarily arrested in the province of Cabo Delgado including Amade Abubacar, Germano Adriano, Omardin Omar and Inrahim Abu Mbaruco;
- G. Whereas 16 refugees and asylum seekers were arbitrarily arrested by the State Police and immigration officers in Maratane Camp, Nampula province; whereas the 16 refugees and asylum seekers are currently detained at the Third Police Station in Pemba, Cabo Delgado; whereas they have been held for nearly one year and eight months, and they still have not been notified of the reason for their detention or of any criminal charges against them; whereas they have also not been brought before a court; whereas at its 87th session, the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (UNWGAD) adopted an opinion on the case of the 16 people;
- H. Whereas Cyclone Idai and Kenneth devastated the country in 2019 affecting 1.85 million people, whereas humanitarian consequences of these natural disasters are still perceptible until now with over 100,000 people living in resettlement sites; whereas these events marked the first time in recorded history that two strong tropical cyclones hit Mozambique in the same season; whereas such devastating events should not be seen in isolation but stem from an increasingly disrupted climatic system which, according to widely accepted scientific findings, are a result of global warming;
- I. Whereas since the first COVID-19 case reported on 22 March, Mozambique has 4,265 reported cases including 26 deaths as of 4th September.; whereas COVID-19 is worsening the existing humanitarian emergency situation in particular for vulnerable groups such as women and girls, elderly people, IDP and children;
- J. Whereas food shortages arise mainly from the combined effects of climate related disasters, internal conflicts and economic hardship caused by the coronavirus pandemic; whereas food insecurity could affect 44.8 million people across the southern African region in the coming months through to 2021.
1. Condemns in the strongest terms the continued serious human rights violations taking place in Mozambique;
 2. Believes that the Government of Mozambique has the right and responsibility to defend its people from armed groups, but insists that such actions must be conducted with respect for human rights and the rule of law;

3. Calls for a prompt and impartial investigation into torture and other grave violations committed by security forces in Cabo Delgado and prosecution of all those perpetrators of human rights violations;
4. Reiterates that Mozambique is bound by the human rights clause of the Cotonou Agreement, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and therefore has an obligation to respect universal human rights, including freedom of expression;
5. Calls on the EU and its member states to urge the Mozambican authorities to develop and implement a short, medium and long term strategy beyond the military primacy to address the human rights violations and humanitarian crisis in Cabo Delgado; stresses the need to ensure that all military intervention in the region protects, respects and promotes human rights, and underlines the necessity of refraining from involving mercenaries; encourages the government of Mozambique to engage in a stronger security dialogue with European partners and the African Union out of common interest in a sustainable development of the situation in the country;
6. Urges the Mozambican authorities to ensure a safe and enabling environment for journalists, including activists and human rights defenders so that they can carry out their vital human rights work without fear of attacks, intimidation and harassment;
7. Condemns the arbitrarily detention of the 16 refugees and asylum seekers, who are currently detained at the Third Police Station in Pemba city, Cabo Delgado and calls on their immediate release;
8. Calls for the full implementation of the Paris Agreement by all parties, in particular those contributing most to CO2 emissions, as this would limit the global temperature increase to levels that could prevent a disastrous escalation of the climate crisis, and help all countries build resilience to unavoidable impacts such as repeated natural disasters taking place in Mozambique; recalls that vulnerable people including women and girls, asylum seekers, and internally displaced persons are among the first victims of harmful climate impacts and must be at the centre of such responses;
9. Warns that the multiple crises affecting Mozambique are having a severe impact on food security; calls on urgent and long-term reaction from the international community to address the food supply emergency and support population hit by both natural disasters linked to climate change and current internal conflicts;
10. Welcomes the responses given so far to address the most critical needs of millions of people facing severe humanitarian conditions with initiatives aiming to withstand the health and socio-economic impact of the pandemic, including towards populations that have been displaced by the increasing insecurity in northern Mozambique; but also calls for sustained long-term measures from the EU and international community that will allow to control the situation in Cabo Delgado and provide urgent help to the populations suffering from the conflict in this area;
11. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Vice-President of the European Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the EU Special Representative for Human Rights,

the ACP-EU Council of Ministers and Joint Parliamentary Assembly, the African Union, the Pan-African Parliament, and the President, Prime Minister and Parliament of Mozambique.