



*Plenary sitting*

**B9-0303/2020**

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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on behalf of the PPE Group

**B9-0303/2020**

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

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Mozambique and the SADC region,
  - having regard to the EC Communication on a new Africa Strategy of 9 March,
  - having regard to the Cotonou Agreement,
  - having regard to the founding principles of SADC,
  - having regard to the Peace and National Reconciliation Agreement of 2019,
  - having regard to the Final Report of the EU EOM in 2019,
  - having regard to the “EU Annual Report on Human Rights and Democracy in the World 2019: Mozambique”,
  - having regard to the 22 April 2020 EU Council conclusions on Mozambique,
  - having regards to the UN OCHA 29 June 2020 “Mozambique Situation Report”,
  - having regard to the OHCHR reports on Mozambique,
  - having regard to the AU Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism,
  - having regard to international convention and protocols against terrorism,
  - having regard to the SADC conclusions 17.8.2020 on Mozambique,
  - having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948,
  - having regard to Rules 144(5) and 132(4) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas in August 2019 a Peace and National Reconciliation Agreement was signed aimed at pacifying the country, end violence, attain democratic inclusion and improve human and civil rights situation;
- B. whereas Mozambique remains in a very fragile situation struggling with numerous security, economic and social challenges;
- C. whereas Mozambique holds one of the lowest Human Development Index (HDI) in the world, ranking 180 out of 189 countries and territories, with 62 per cent of the population living below the international poverty line;
- D. whereas consecutive climate and security related shocks have led to an estimated

number of 7,9 million people in need of urgent humanitarian assistance;

- E. whereas since October 2017 Islamic terrorist groups, including Ahl Sunnahwa Jammah (ASWJ) and [the Islamic State Central Africa Province \(ISCAP\), affiliated with the Islamic State \(IS\)](#), have launched over 500 violent attacks in the northern Cabo Delgado province, terrorising the local population, claiming over 1500 lives and leading to the displacement of over 250 000 people;
- F. whereas the terrorist attacks have become [more and more violent, including beheadings, and numerous villages have been attacked](#), with over 1,000 homes burned or destroyed; whereas militants, are reported to have begun kidnapping women and girls, including two Catholic nuns of the congregation of St. Joseph of Chambery kidnapped on 12 August in Mocímboa da Praia during a furious attack by Al-Shabab militias, and recently freed;
- G. whereas these jihadist groups dramatically stepped up their attacks in 2020 and in August captured the strategic port city of Mocimboa da Praia;
- H. whereas the Islamic insurgents are increasingly resorting to illegal trade, as a financing source;
- I. whereas Mozambique has no history of Islamist militancy; whereas about 30 percent of Mozambique's 31 million people are Roman Catholics, while 18 percent are Muslim and only two provinces have a Muslim majority, namely Cabo Delgado and Niassa;
- J. whereas Mozambican authorities have been trying to tackle the violence by pursuing a response on their own;
- K. whereas the military actions by the Mozambican authorities, have not been able to stop the attacks and tackle this humanitarian emergency, which has been deteriorating at an alarming rate;
- L. whereas Cabo Delgado is a resource rich region, home to precious minerals as well as natural gas fields off its coast, which were discovered in 2012 and which potentially place Mozambique among the four largest producers of LNG in the world;
- M. whereas Cabo Delgado is the region with the largest investments project for gas exploitation in Africa, while having Mozambique's highest rates of illiteracy, inequality and child malnutrition,
- N. whereas according to some reports revenue from natural resources have been unevenly distributed in Mozambique;
- O. whereas in March 2020 the agency for the Integrated development of the North, ADIN (Agencia de desenvolvimento integrado do norte) was launched with the specific aim of addressing the North's socio-economic shortcomings;
- P. Whereas on 4 June the UN Humanitarian Coordinator for Mozambique, Myrta Kaulard, called on the international community to scale up its support to Mozambique;

- Q. whereas solidarity inside Mozambique has been growing with the plight of the people in Cabo Delgado, which led in particular young people in Mozambique to launch a National Solidarity Campaign for Cabo Delgado under the hashtag #CaboDelgadoTambémÉMocambique (Cabo Delgado is also Mozambique) in order to raise awareness to the tragic situation in the region,
- R. whereas the October 2019 national election was observed by an EU EOM which observed a number of severe shortcoming in the election process;
- S. whereas in 2019 Mozambique suffered from the devastating destruction of cyclones Idai and Kenneth, which together with Covid-19 pandemic of 2020, have further aggravated the already existing numerous domestic problems,
- T. whereas SADC’s 2015 regional counter-terrorism strategy, which was developed in line with the United Nations global counter-terrorism strategy, provides for assistance in preventing youth radicalisation, border security, humanitarian aid and tackling the root causes of terrorism;
- U. whereas Mozambique currently holds the rotating presidency of SADC; whereas during its 40th Summit on the 17 of August, the regional organisation “commended the country for its continued efforts towards combating terrorism and violent attacks” and “expressed SADC solidarity and commitment to support Mozambique in addressing the terrorism and violent attacks, and condemned all acts of terrorism and armed attacks;
- V. whereas despite its brutality and the horrible loss of life, the situation in Cabo Delgado failed to gain the international attention, which meant that precious time was lost to effectively tackle the issue at an earlier stage,
- W. whereas Commission President Ursula von der Leyen has pledged to lead a “geopolitical commission”;
1. Declares its strong concerns about the deteriorating security situation in Northern Mozambique, in particular the Cabo Delgado Province, and expresses its condolences to the over 1500 victims of the violence; expresses its solidarity and support to its citizens, especially the over 210 000 people who had to flee their home;
  2. Underlines that this situation further aggravates an already extremely fragile humanitarian situation deriving from high levels of underdevelopment, climate shocks, and conflicts;
  3. Stresses that the number of people displaced is constantly increasing as a consequence of this underestimated threat and the increasingly violent, frequent and sophisticated nature of the attacks;
  4. Expresses severe concern that the insurgency is gaining increasing support by regional and international terrorist organisations; points in this light to the unfortunate similarities with other regions, such as the Sahel and Horn of Africa;
  5. Underlines that if not stopped the insurgency will potentially grow and spill over into neighbouring countries, threatening regional stability; underlines in this light the need

for an effective and sustainable policy by both the national government as well as regional and international actors;

6. Highlights that the intensified links between Islamic insurgents and drug trafficking enhances the international dimension of this crisis;
7. Believes that a more coordinated regional and international effort is needed to respond to the imminent security crisis in Cabo Delgado, calls therefore on the EEAS to extend additional support to the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the African Union (AU), to reach a long-lasting and peaceful solution;
8. Points out that SADC's organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation (OPDS), with a multinational fighting unit for tackling serious counter-insurgency situations, could be an important actor for managing and condemning this conflict in the short term, while in the long term further reforms aimed at promoting democracy, human rights, and the rule of law should be envisaged as they represent a prerequisite for stability, peace and development;
9. Urges the Mozambican authorities to intensify cooperation with the International Community, particularly with regional and continental international organizations such as the SADC and the AU, in order to increase its capacities to tackle the security and humanitarian situation;
10. Underlines the importance of pursuing the necessary reforms in order to adequately respond to the needs of the Mozambican people, preventing them from being vulnerable targets of radicalisation; underlines in particular the urgent need to create jobs and opportunities for the people in Cabo Delgado, in particular the youth;
11. Urges the government of Mozambique to adopt a coherent and effective strategy to address the violent insurgents, while fully respecting human, civil and media rights;
12. Recalls that the people of Mozambique, both of Christian and Muslim faith, have been living peacefully in coexistence for a long time, and expresses its conviction that this model of tolerance and solidarity will prevail despite these attacks by Islamic terrorists;
13. Stresses the need for an increased support for regional security cooperation, and stronger boarder management notably to address cross-border threats as terrorist insurgence and smuggling;
14. Calls upon the Mozambican government to openly cooperate with international institutions to correctly analyse the humanitarian needs of the population in Cabo Delgado in order to provide them the necessary help; furthermore believes that the victims of violence must be protected through the form of a relief plan in order for them to be able to pursue their lives;
15. Calls on the VP/HR Josep Borrell, and the EU Member States to continue to closely follow the situation and to scale up their support to national and regional authorities; welcomes, in this light, the Council Conclusions of 22 June, but insists that further diplomatic action should be put in place, particularly from those Member States that share historical and friendly links with the country, in order to stress the need of urgent

action on this regional security and humanitarian issue and bring the governments attention to the geopolitical consequences that will derive from the lack of a coordinated regional and international response;

16. Expresses its hope that the new Africa Strategy by the EU, once effectively in place, will help intensify the EU's engagement throughout the continent, and as such will help advance the economic, social, security and human rights situation in countries such as Mozambique;
17. Considers that the current development in Mozambique and its social and economic consequences will be duly addressed in our policy towards Africa in the next Multiannual Financial Framework 2021; underlines that, while being often devastated by floods and other natural disasters, the population of Mozambique should receive all available support and humanitarian aid;
18. Believes that the upcoming EU Africa Summit is as an excellent opportunity to better address the issue of this humanitarian tragedy and for the EU to scale up its support to regional and continental organizations;
19. Points to the fact that after the two devastating cyclones of 2019, the Covid-19 crisis and the increasing violence in Cabo Delgado present additional external challenges for Mozambique and calls therefore on the EU and its Member States to step up their support to the people of Mozambique;
20. Considers it of utmost importance that the local population, in particular in the poorest provinces of the country, benefits from the exploitation of their natural resources; calls on the government to fairly allocate incomes from exploitation projects to local development;
21. Expresses its readiness to assist Mozambique to develop a long-term strategy to address the root causes of violence;
22. Calls on the European Commission to rapidly fulfil its promise of 8 July to name a Special Envoy on Freedom of religion or belief (*ForB*);
23. Stresses the need to prioritise education and foster rural development to tackle radicalisation, in particular among young people in rural areas;
24. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the Government and parliament of Mozambique as well as the Members and leadership of the South African Development Community (SADC) and the African Union (AU).