

# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

## PUBLIC STATEMENT

AI Index: AFR 41/4449/2016

28 June 2016

### **Mozambique: Amnesty International welcomes commitment to investigate extrajudicial executions, torture and other ill-treatment**

#### ***Human Rights Council adopts Universal Periodic Review outcome on Mozambique***

Amnesty International welcomes Mozambique's acceptance of recommendations to ensure that all allegations of arbitrary detention, excessive use of force, extrajudicial executions, torture and other ill-treatment by state actors are promptly, thoroughly and impartially investigated.<sup>1</sup>

Amnesty International is also pleased to note that Mozambique accepted recommendations to respond positively to the request to visit the country by the UN Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, first made in April 2008.<sup>2</sup>

However, despite Mozambique's acceptance of similar recommendations during its first UPR in 2011, the organization is concerned to note a number of reports of extrajudicial executions, torture and other ill-treatment by state actors, and continued impunity for such abuses.

On 10 May 2016, Benedito Sabão, a subsistence farmer from the town of Catandica, Manica Province, was arbitrarily arrested, ill-treated and shot at by suspected secret service agents, allegedly for supporting the main opposition party RENAMO. He survived the attack but he is still receiving threats.<sup>3</sup>

On 2 March 2015, Professor Gilles Cistac was shot dead by unknown men. Earlier, he had made statements supporting greater autonomy for the provinces in Mozambique.<sup>4</sup>

In both cases, the perpetrators have not been identified, let alone brought to justice.

Amnesty International welcomes Mozambique's acceptance of a recommendation to create a mechanism to prevent illegal land-grabbing and to ensure that large-scale development projects are undertaken with human rights due diligence and following public consultation.<sup>5</sup>

Amnesty International is concerned, however, that human rights abuses continue to be committed in the context of extractive industries throughout the country. Amnesty International regrets Mozambique's rejection of a recommendation to review legislation to ensure that victims of human rights abuses by business enterprises have access to effective

---

<sup>1</sup> Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review - Mozambique*, A/HRC/32/6, 12 April 2016, recommendations 128.76 (France), 128.77 (Australia), 128.78 (Ghana), 128.79 (Canada).

<sup>2</sup> A/HRC/32/6, recommendations 128.36 (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), 128.37 (United States of America), 128.38 (Sweden).

<sup>3</sup> Amnesty International, Urgent Action, *Accused of being opposition member, shot at* (Index: AFR 41/4099/2016).

<sup>4</sup> Amnesty International, Public Statement, *Mozambique must promptly investigate the killing of a lawyer* (Index: AFR 41/1137/2015).

<sup>5</sup> A/HRC/32/6, recommendation 128.134 (Czech Republic).

complaint and redress mechanisms.<sup>6</sup> Amnesty International urges the Government to reconsider this recommendation and also to implement the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

**Background**

The UN Human Rights Council adopted the outcome of the Universal Periodic Review of Mozambique on 23 June 2016 during its 32<sup>nd</sup> session. Prior to the adoption of the report of the review Amnesty International delivered the oral statement above. Amnesty International also contributed to the information basis of the review through its submission on Mozambique: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr41/2587/2015/en/>

Public Document

International Secretariat – Southern Africa Regional Office, Amnesty International, 3 on Glenhove Road, Johannesburg, South Africa, [www.amnesty.org](http://www.amnesty.org)

\*\*\*\*\*

---

<sup>6</sup> A/HRC/32/6, recommendation 129.24 (Czech Republic).