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Mozambique: Amnesty International urges investigation into cases of extrajudicial executions, arbitrary detention, torture and ill-treatment, and excessive use of force

Human Rights Council adopts Universal Periodic Review outcome on Mozambique

Amnesty International welcomes Mozambique's engagement with the Universal Periodic Review and its support for a number of important recommendations, including the ratification of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Mozambique has stated that it has already implemented - or is in the process of implementing - 92 of the 169 recommendations made to it in the UPR Working Group. Amnesty International welcomes in particular Mozambique's indication that it supports and is implementing a range of recommendations to investigate all cases of arbitrary detention, torture and ill-treatment, and excessive use of force by the police, and to bring perpetrators to justice.¹ It urges Mozambique to ensure prompt implementation of these recommendations, which are particularly pertinent in light of the findings by Amnesty International, over a number of years, of unlawful killings, torture and ill-treatment and excessive use of force by the police in the context of policing of public gatherings. As recently as 5 March 2011, police officers killed a man in his home in Nampula City in what appears to be an extrajudicial execution. The police claimed that he was a criminal; however, no investigation is known to have been carried out and the police officers involved in this incident have not been brought to justice.

Amnesty International also welcomes Mozambique's commitment to take further steps to prevent ill-treatment of prisoners and to bring prison conditions into compliance with international standards.² The organization continues to receive reports of torture and ill-treatment in places of detention, sometimes resulting in the death of detainees.

Finally, Amnesty International welcomes Mozambique's indication, in the Addendum, that procedures are underway for the ratification of several additional human rights treaties and that action has been taken to give effect to the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers.³

Background

¹ A/HRC/17/16, paragraphs 89.53-89.64

² Ibid, paragraphs 89.21-89.24

³ A/HRC/17/16/Add.1, paragraphs 6, 7 and 10.

The UN Human Rights Council adopted the outcome of the Universal Periodic Review of Mozambique on 9 June 2011 its 17th 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:

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/AFR41/002/2010/en/653b990b-79b8-459b-b803-9f5ffc84e558/afr410022010en.pdf>

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