



PLSO MOZAMBIQUE

Guide to Navigating Protests

Situation Summary:

Despite a nearly unanimous declaration from a large majority of electoral observers that the electoral process on October 9th was peaceful and orderly. In the past week, Venancio Mondlane and the PODEMOS party, along with other opposition parties such as Renamo and MDM, have been complaining about alleged fraud during the electoral process on October 9th. These parties stated that the partial results announced by the District and Provincial Election Commissions did not reflect the notices and minutes at the polling stations they observed. This raised suspicions about the origin of the results presented by the electoral authorities. Thus, more unrest activities from the opposition parties, especially from Venancio Mondlane and the PODEMOS party, are expected in the coming weeks as they contest the election results.

Increased unrest is expected in areas where the opposition claims victory and in historically sensitive locations during electoral processes.

South region: Cities of Maputo and Matola

Center region: Cities of Beira, Quelimane, and Tete

North region: Cities of Nampula and Nacala Porto

Security Forces: High security measures are expected, with the deployment of police units primarily in the largest cities. Although candidates and opposition parties are calling for peaceful protests, there is a significant risk of violent incidents involving the police and protesters, as well as acts of vandalism.

Actions and Recommendations:

1. Stay Calm and Assess the Situation

- Avoid sudden movements or actions that could be seen as provocative.
- Try to quickly assess whether the march or strike is peaceful or potentially violent.
- Keep your emotions in check and avoid engaging with the protestors or security forces.

2. Blend In and Stay Neutral

- Avoid drawing attention to yourself by blending in with the crowd if possible.
- Do not wear clothing or accessories that identify you as part of a specific organization or as a foreigner.
- Stay neutral and refrain from expressing any opinions on the cause of the strike or march.

3. Avoid Taking Photos or Videos

- In many cases, taking pictures or recording videos may be seen as provocative by both protestors and security forces. This can escalate tensions, leading to confrontations.

4. Move to Safety Gradually

- If the situation starts escalating, do not run. Instead, calmly and gradually move towards the edges of the crowd.
- Identify the nearest exit points, such as side streets or buildings, and plan your exit route.
- Do not rush into enclosed spaces where you might get trapped if violence breaks out.

5. Avoid Confronting Law Enforcement or Protesters

- Do not engage with law enforcement or protesters unless necessary. Interactions can be misinterpreted, and your presence may be questioned.
- If approached by law enforcement, cooperate and avoid acting suspiciously.

6. Use Communication Tools

- If you have access to a phone or communication device, inform someone of your location. Share your situation and let them know when you have found safety.
- If working with an organization, use your established communication protocol for reporting emergencies.

7. Seek Shelter if Violence Erupts

- If the situation becomes violent, seek shelter in nearby buildings or secure locations like shops, hotels, or homes. Avoid hiding in places that are obvious targets for protestors or security forces.

- Stay away from windows and avoid being in the line of sight of any confrontation.
- Strikes and marches often target government buildings, key infrastructure, or major roads. Avoid these areas when planning your movements.
- If driving, avoid using main routes that could be blocked by protestors or police.

9. **Have an Emergency Kit**

- If you are in an area prone to strikes or marches, it's wise to have an emergency kit with water, a fully charged phone, identification documents, and essential medications. It may take time to find a safe way out.

10. **Monitor Local News and Alerts**

- Keep track of local news or alerts for updates on the situation. Stay informed about government warnings or restrictions, including curfews or transport closures.

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PLSO Contact Information

PLSO.Moz@garda.com