



BOLETIM SOBRE DIREITOS HUMANOS



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WHEN THE STATE IS UNABLE TO GUARANTEE SECURITY TO CITIZENS

Kidnappers filmed the torture of a victim in September to blackmail the family and demand ransom.

- A woman identified as Fazila, who, according to available information, is the wife of a businessman known only as José, was kidnapped in September 2025 around 7:00 PM near Marracuene Lodge in the Marracuene district, Maputo province. The kidnapping was carried out by unidentified individuals believed to be part of a kidnapping syndicate. Since then, the victim's whereabouts have remained unknown.



This kidnapping occurred before the abduction of the Portuguese-Mozambican businessman Francisco Cera. To date, the Police of the Republic of Mozambique (PRM) has not issued any public statement on the case. In the absence of institutional communication, three videos of Fazila began circulating on social media. In the recordings, reportedly made by the kidnappers to pressure the family into paying the ransom, the victim appears chained by his hands and legs, in evident physical and psychological distress.

In the first video, she appears fully clothed while being assaulted by her kidnappers. In the second, she is shown wearing only trousers, with her torso exposed, and is assaulted again. In the third video, Fazila is gagged and bloodied, visibly in a state of extreme despair.

In all the recordings, her cries for help are clearly audible. Through tears, she pleads with her family to rescue her, exposing the brutality and terror she is enduring. The footage offers a painful illustration of a State unable to guarantee the safety of its citizens.



More than two hundred kidnappings in 14 years and a lack of response from the State.

Mozambique has been facing the phenomenon of kidnappings since 2011, during the final phase of the government of then-President Armando Guebuza. During the ten years of Filipe Nyusi's rule, who succeeded Guebuza, the kidnappings became entrenched, evolving into a highly organized criminal syndicate.

Now, under the leadership of the new President, Daniel Chapo, the State continues to be overwhelmed by this criminal network, which since 2011 has claimed more than two hundred victims, with

a profound impact on families, the economy, and the sense of national security.

According to the Annual Report of the Attorney General's Office (PGR), the country registered 32 cases of kidnapping in 2024. Data presented by the Minister of the Interior, Paulo Chachine, on March 9th, during a government information session at the Assembly of the Republic, indicate that since 2011, 205 kidnapping crimes have been registered, distributed as follows: Maputo City (133 cases); Maputo Province (49 cases); and Sofala (9 cases).

Unfulfilled promises

During President Nyusi's ten-year tenure, the creation of an anti-kidnapping brigade was repeatedly promised, yet no concrete information about its implementation ever emerged. President Daniel Chapo has now announced the establishment of a special unit dedicated to combating kidnapping

In May of this year, the Assembly of the Republic approved the transfer of the National Criminal In-

vestigation Service (SERNIC) to the oversight of the Office of the Attorney General.

Despite these measures, kidnappings continue. The numbers and recurrence of cases demonstrate the urgency of a firm, coordinated, and effective response from State institutions, which, 14 years after the first kidnapping, remain unable to contain this crime.



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