



# DECIDE BRIEFING

W E E K L Y   E D I T I O N

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MONDAY

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## “ STATEMENT

Hearing of Former PRM  
Commander over Human Rights  
Violations: A Milestone for Justice  
in Mozambique

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Following formal process No. 9/PGR/2024, submitted on 21 November 2024 by the Executive Director of the DECIDE Platform, Wilker Dias, and subsequently by the Center for Democracy and Human Rights (CDD) on 26 November 2024, in which former Commander of the Mozambican Police, Mr. Bernardino Rafael, and former Minister of the Interior, Mr. Pascoal Ronda, are held responsible for a significant portion of the 388 deaths, approximately 800 shootings, torture cases, and over 7,000 illegal detentions that occurred during the post-electoral repression in various provinces of the country, the DECIDE Platform commends the Office of the Attorney General (PGR) for the hearing of the former Commander, held on 07 July 2025.

This hearing represents a concrete step forward and a symbolic milestone in reaffirming citizens' right to access justice in a country where the accountability of senior officials has historically been rare.

The DECIDE Platform expects justice to be delivered impartially and independently, and that this process serves as a deterrent against practices that violate constitutional principles and fundamental rights enshrined in Mozambican law.

The DECIDE Platform also expects the Office of the Attorney General to proceed swiftly, transparently, and in full compliance with the law, leading to the accountability of all those involved. Likewise, we expect the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights to act firmly, reaffirming the role of international mechanisms in the protection of fundamental rights, particularly in contexts of state repression.

It is important to highlight that the DECIDE Platform is part of the coalition of organizations that brought this case before the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, considering the reported facts to be a grave violation of national and international instruments for the protection of life, physical integrity, and fundamental freedoms.



The hearing of Mr. Bernardino Rafael reinforces the international relevance of the case and demonstrates that the pursuit of justice must not be interrupted, regardless of the ongoing national proceedings.

The DECIDE Platform encourages all civil society organizations to remain firm, united, and vigilant in the construction of a Mozambique where no one is above the law, and where active citizenship can thrive in freedom and safety.