



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

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Dear Mr. de Clerck,

On behalf of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), I wish to acknowledge receipt of the letter from the traditional leaders of the Palma area, in Mozambique, and civil society organisations. Our Office concurs that the severity of the human rights violations allegedly committed in 2021 by Mozambican security forces require an effective, impartial and thorough investigation, in line with international human rights standards.

To your request, we are aware that the Attorney General's Office in Mozambique is currently pursuing a criminal investigation into the alleged events, together with the National Human Rights Commission. Due to the United Nations' liquidity crisis, our capacity to take on new initiatives, such as launch independent fact-finding by our Office, is unfortunately severely limited.

I would like to bring to you other options available with the United Nations. The Human Rights Council has at its disposal several mechanisms, for example its Special Procedures. Like other UN member States, Mozambique is subject to the Universal Periodic Review, wherein all States are permitted to raise human rights concerns directly with the concerned State. Mozambique is also required to report periodically on the implementation of its obligations under the human rights treaties to which it is a party.

Please rest assured that our Office will remain abreast of developments in this situation. I trust in your understanding that our inability to respond positively to the request is wholly unrelated to the merits of the allegations.

Yours sincerely,

Maarit Kohonen Sheriff
Director, Global Operations Division

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