

Call for Urgent Action on the 2024 Post-Election Crisis in Mozambique: A Plea to End Silent Diplomacy in 2025

The African Election Observers Network (AfeONet) stands in solidarity with the people of Mozambique and reaffirms its unwavering commitment to advocating for a peaceful and just resolution to the ongoing post-election crisis. In the wake of the 9th October 2024 general elections, we remain resolute in raising awareness and supporting efforts to safeguard human rights defenders, particularly as political leaders and the international community maintain a troubling silence amid the escalating turmoil.

Despite numerous conciliatory efforts by international and regional actors—including public statements, extraordinary summits, judicial rulings, and presidential inaugurations—the measures taken have largely exacerbated public unrest. Over 100 days have passed since the National Elections Commission (CNE) announced the election results, triggering widespread violent protests. The crisis has undermined Mozambique's hard-won democratic gains, due to the absence of a transparent and inclusive electoral dispute resolution process. Further compounding the situation are allegations of the destruction of sensitive election materials, including ballot papers and results sheets, reportedly by the CNE.

As of 14 January 2025, reports indicate that at least 300 lives have been lost due to police actions during the protests. We strongly condemn the continued persecution of human rights defenders, who are being unfairly labeled as criminals through state-driven narratives. We urge both national and international media outlets to exercise caution and avoid amplifying such damaging rhetoric.

As a coalition of African election observer groups, AfeONet has consistently championed adherence to key electoral frameworks, such as the **African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG)** and the **SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections**. These frameworks emphasize the need for free, fair, and credible elections as a cornerstone of peace and stability. We, therefore, call upon the **African Union (AU)** and the **Southern African Development Community (SADC)**—both of which deployed Election Observer Missions to Mozambique—to reflect deeply on whether their ongoing silent diplomacy aligns with the principles and values enshrined in their founding documents.

In this spirit, **AfeONet urgently appeals to the international community to take decisive and immediate action**. We call for the deployment of effective mechanisms to ensure a **peaceful and just resolution to the violence** that has claimed hundreds of lives and continues to jeopardize the peace and stability of Mozambique and the broader region.

For elections to serve as a vehicle for peaceful political transitions, they must be conducted transparently, credibly, and fairly. We reiterate our call for all stakeholders to uphold the principles of democracy and justice, ensuring a brighter future for Mozambique and its people.

In Solidarity,

The African Election Observers Network (**AfeONet**), January 29, 2025

