

**Investigations performed by Mozambique LNG
on the allegations published by Politico on 26th September 2024**

On 26 September 2024, the news website Politico published an article regarding very serious alleged human rights violations that would have been carried out by Mozambican soldiers at or near the Afungi site between July and November 2021.

First, it should be noted that starting in 2017, Cabo Delgado was the scene of attacks carried out by a terrorist group affiliated with the Islamic State against civilian populations. The arrest of civilians mentioned in the Politico article would have taken place after the terrorist attack on the town of Palma in March 2021, where the Islamic State committed terrible abuses against civilians. At that time, the terrorists controlled a large part of the east and north of the province.

The land granted by the Mozambican Government to the various liquefied natural gas projects, including Mozambique LNG, is located on the Afungi peninsula. The Afungi peninsula also hosts several communities, including those mentioned in the article. The facilities on the land dedicated to the projects were protected by a security force composed of soldiers and police officers (Joint Task Force or JTF) whose function was to protect the Afungi peninsula. This JTF had a dedicated line of command.

From the end of March 2021, more than 25,000 people fleeing the attacks in Palma took refuge on the Afungi peninsula, in a context of insecurity with regular attacks by the Islamic State throughout the area. From April 2, 2021, Mozambique LNG evacuated the remaining personnel from its site, no longer being able to ensure its operations. The Mozambican army took control of the airport and port in the area. Having no personnel on the Afungi site from April 2, 2021, until November 2021, Mozambique LNG remained in telephone contact with local communities and the JTF during this period.

Mozambique LNG has conducted an extensive research to identify whether it had any information indicating that the events alleged in the Politico article would have taken place. This research was based on the following:

- Forensic review by a third party of mobile phones and laptops belonging to members of the Project security team, on the basis that, although based in Maputo during the alleged events, they would likely have been made aware if such events had occurred near the Afungi site main entrance. **Nothing in this search was found to suggest that the alleged events took place.**
- Logs of phone calls with local communities between April to November 2021: despite having no physical presence in Afungi during this period, Mozambique LNG had maintained a close

communication with local communities and made over 1,200 phone calls with community leaders, community facilitators and people affected by the project.

None of these calls mentioned the alleged events.

- Logs of the grievances and VPSHR cases brought by the local communities, as part of the grievance handling mechanism established by Mozambique LNG to deal with resettlement, compensation payments, livelihood restoration programs and the broad security situation for the local communities. This grievance mechanism proved to be effective at capturing the concerns of the local community, with a number of cases of security and VPSHR incidents reported in 2021 and in 2022.

The review showed that no grievance was received related to the alleged events.

- Reports from organizations operating in the vicinity of the Afungi project site: after the attack of Palma and during the period of the alleged events, Mozambique LNG provided emergency aid and humanitarian support to local communities, through a local NGO and a logistics company. During this period, Mozambique LNG received regular reports from this local NGO and logistics company.

The alleged events were never raised in these reports.

- Operational reports on the status of Afungi site made in November and December 2021, when Mozambique LNG personnel returned to the site. At this time, Mozambique LNG conducted a full survey of the site to check the condition of the equipment and infrastructure, during this initial survey.

There was no indication of jails or holding centers or any evidence of mass graves.

- Human rights due diligence update performed in 2022: in 2022, LKL, an international firm specialized in human rights in the extractive sector, was requested by Mozambique LNG to update the initial human right due diligence conducted in 2020. LKL interviewed 94 community members, 17 civil society organization representatives, 21 implementing partners and consultants, and 18 national human rights and judicial institution's representatives.

None of the persons interviewed reported any information that would support the veracity of the alleged events.

- Survey performed in 2023 by Community Insights Group (CIS): in early 2023, CIS, a firm specialized in social performance, undertook a full review of Mozambique LNG resettlement program and conducted numerous interviews with community members from Quitunda, Quitupo and Senga villages, located next to Afungi site. This survey included a 10-day field trip on site with 3 social performance specialists.

No information that could corroborate the alleged event was ever raised during this survey.

- Door-to-door socio-economic survey from July 2023 to July 2024: during this survey commissioned by Mozambique LNG, a third party interviewed 21,200 households including the communities that would have been affected by the alleged events.

None of the families reported events that would support the alleged events.

Based on the investigations into the information described above, Mozambique LNG has not identified any information nor evidence that would corroborate the allegations of severe abuses and torture made in the Politico article, despite having maintained several channels of communication with the local communities during and after the alleged events.

Mozambique LNG has raised these allegations with the authorities of Mozambique. On 11th October 2024, the Mozambican Ministry of Defense published a Press Release refuting the allegations and welcoming a transparent and impartial investigation into these allegations. Mozambique LNG has invited the authorities of Mozambique to carry out such an investigation as soon as possible. Mozambique LNG will keep following up with the Mozambican authorities as only they can take the investigations further at this stage.

In addition, Mozambique LNG contacted the Human Rights National Committee of Mozambique, which had conducted a human right investigation in the first half of 2022 in the Palma District. The Human Rights National Committee was represented by Alice Mabota, a recognized expert in human rights. She made two visits to Afungi with her team to investigate grievances raised by the local communities about the Mozambican military personnel. The Human Rights National Committee spoke with the local communities and local leaders in relation to these grievances. The Human Rights National Committee has not reported any information that would support the alleged events described in the Politico article.

Finally, it should be noted that the Politico article contains a number of inaccuracies that can be proved as factually incorrect. For instance, the article alleges that Mozambique LNG has bulldozed farms and dwellings in a village called Ncumbi to replace it with the liquefaction plant. However, the village is still standing and is 13 km away from Mozambique LNG site and therefore is not impacted by the construction of the Project. Similarly, alleging that thousands of construction workers were in Palma at the time of the attack of this city is staggeringly incorrect as Mozambique LNG had instructed its contractors to bring all personnel working on the project to reside within the secure perimeter of the Afungi site.