



# BOLETIM SOBRE DIREITOS HUMANOS



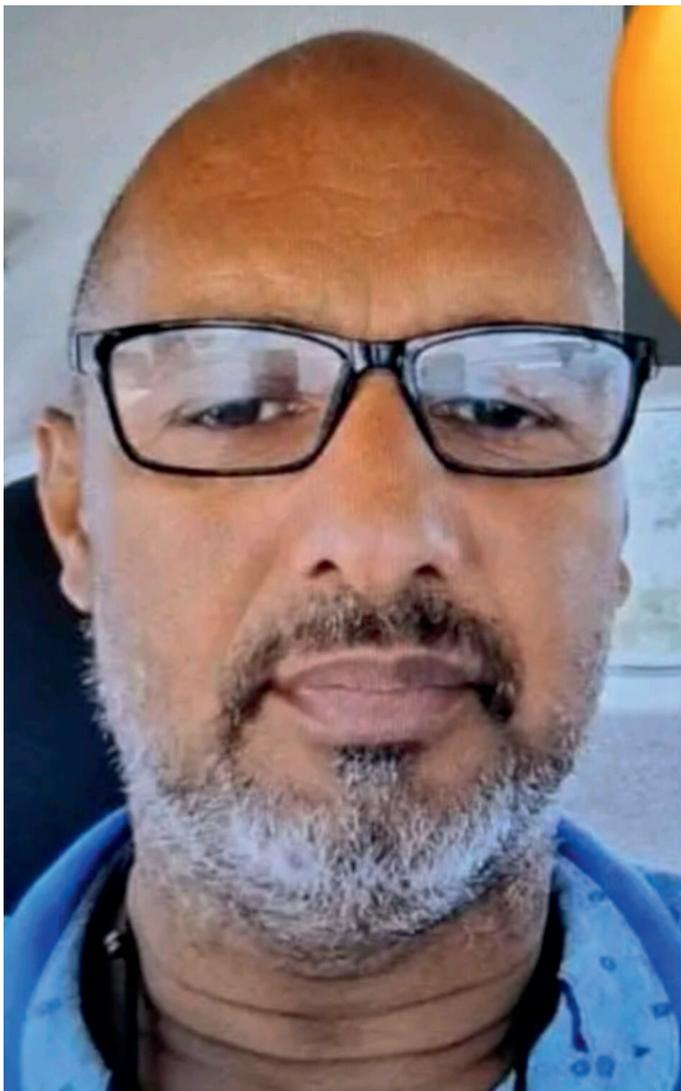
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## Murder of SERNIC agent reignites concerns over a wave of killings targeting security forces

- Last year alone, at least six security force officers were murdered in Mozambique.



The year 2026 started violently in Maputo province with the murder of a National Criminal Investigation Service (SERNIC) agent, amid a series of concerning murders of security personnel in Mozambique.

The victim, identified as João Paulo, was fatally shot on the afternoon of Saturday, 3 January, at his residence in the Fomento neighbourhood of Matola City, while in the company of family and friends.

Reports indicate that two hooded, armed individuals arrived in a Toyota Mark X, parked in front of the house, and fired several shots, resulting in the officer's immediate death.

The Commander-General of the Police of the Republic of Mozambique (PRM), Joaquim Sive, confirmed the occurrence, classifying the crime as macabre, and assured that investigations are underway to clarify the facts and hold the perpetrators accountable.

## At least six law enforcement officers were murdered in 2025.

This murder is the first recorded case in 2026 in Maputo province involving a member of the security forces, following a wave of violence in 2025 during which at least six officers were killed at different levels and across various operational contexts.

The last victim in 2025 was Leonor Inguane, who was serving at the time as the District Commander of the Police of the Republic of Mozambique (PRM) in Marracuene. On October 1st, a SERNIC (National

Criminal Investigation Service) agent named Pacule was killed. On September 9th, an agent from the Special Operations Group (GOE) of the PRM, known as "Mosquito," was also shot dead. On July 2nd, two SERNIC agents were killed in Matola, also by gunfire. Then, on June 11th, an agent from the Rapid Intervention Unit (UIR), named Carlitos Zandamela, was riddled with bullets in the Nkobe neighborhood, Matola Municipality.

## Narratives behind the wave of murders

Crimes of this nature are generally explained through two main narratives. The first points to the settling of scores, often linked to allegations of some officers' involvement in criminal activities or illicit dealings within the police force itself. The second narrative suggests the possibility of a "cover-up," namely, the elimination of officers believed to possess sensitive information.



## Maputo as the main stage and a source of concern for society

Maputo province is the main scene of these assassinations, which follow similar patterns and remain unsolved, exacerbating concerns about the safety of state agents in the face of selective acts of violence.

In society, the question is asked: if the state's own agents, armed and trained to protect, are not safe, then what is left for the average citizen? This reality reflects the widespread feeling of fear and helplessness that pervades the population, questioning to what extent the state is still capable of ensuring the lives and safety of its own employees, let alone those of the people who depend on them.



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