

His Excellency Carlos Dos Santos
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Embassy of the Republic of Mozambique
1525 New Hampshire Ave NW
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Mr. Ambassador,

We, the undersigned, are a group of individuals and organizations that advocate for human rights and religious freedom around the world. We represent diverse religious and ethnic backgrounds but are united in our goal of promoting freedom of religion or belief for all. We are writing to you to express our concern regarding a concern within the Republic of Mozambique.

We are concerned with the insurgency that is raging in the Northern Province of Cabo Delgado. Part of our concern arises from the attacks against Houses of Worship that have taken place during the conflict such as the incident in Namade¹ that took place around the New Year's holiday that resulted in the deaths of two people and several homes.

This incident is not our only concern. We are concerned with the status of Ryan Koher, a pilot with Mission Aviation Fellowship which is based here in the United States, and two South African volunteers, W. J. du Plessis and Eric Dry. They were taken into custody² on November 4, 2022 in the city of Inhambane while in the process of loading an aircraft with supplies that were to be flown to a church-run orphanage in the Montepuez District of Cabo Delgado. They have been charged with "supporting insurgent activity". This charity has been providing support to these facilities since 2014.³

We were surprised to learn that all three gentlemen were denied bail⁴ in a mid-February hearing and are still in custody.

We are concerned with the health of Mr. Koher at this time. His family has reported that his health is in decline. He has a condition that is causing itching and is affecting his ability to sleep.

¹ <https://www.churchinneed.org/mozambique-terrorist-attack-christian-villages/>

² <https://www.ktvb.com/article/news/local/idaho-based-missionary-pilot-detained-in-mozambique/277-380d8914-021c-4d6c-9f16-46adfc3984c4>

³ <https://www.maf-uk.org/news/maf-pilot-ryan-koher-spends-40th-day-in-mozambican-prison/>

⁴ <https://www.christianpost.com/news/missionary-pilot-volunteers-imprisoned-in-mozambique-denied-bail.html>

Therefore, we seek assurances that he receives the proper medical care while he remains incarcerated.

Secondly, we congratulate your country as it will assume the Presidency of the UN Security Council for March 2023. Members of the African Working Group deal with countries including Mozambique that have seen Houses of Worship come under attack from extremists.

We would also like to organize a briefing with you and your staff about our concerns in Africa and have those issues be addressed by the UN Security Council during your country's tenure as President of the Council.

We eagerly await your reply.

Sincerely,

Groups

American Association of Evangelicals

Anglican Persecuted Church Network

Church of Scientology National Affairs Office

Congolese Integration Network

Diaspora Alliance

FWMGroup

Global Engagement

ICON

Katartismos Global

Individuals (With Job listings for identification purposes)

Kyle Abts
Executive Director

ICON

Elaina Fowler
FWM Group

Charmaine Hedding
President
Shai Fund

Lauren Homer
President
Law & Liberty Trust

Dr Michael Jenkins
President
The Washington Times Foundation

Dr Michael Jenkins
President
Universal Peace Foundation

Kelly Monroe Kullberg
Senior Fellow
American Association of Evangelicals

Camilla Lewis

Faith McDonnell
Director of Advocacy
Katartismos Global

Scott Morgan
Co-Chair Africa Working Group

Floribert Mubalama
Founder and Executive Director
Congolese Integration Network

Bryan Nerrin
President
Asian Children Education Fellowship

Judith Nwana
Chairperson
Center for Dialogue and Negotiations

Gbenga Ogunjimi
Founder/CEO Nigerian Center

Marco Respinti
Director in Charge
Bitter Winter

Patricia Streeter
Co-leader Anglican Persecuted Church Network

Thierry Valle
President
Coordination des Associations et des Particuliers pour la Liberté de Conscience

Cc USCIRF
Cc State Department IRF Office
Cc. Embassy of South Africa