

Louis Michel,
Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid
European Commission

29 April 2008
Our ref :B773

Dear Mr Michel,

**New Amnesty International report:
"Licence to kill: Police accountability in Mozambique"**

Amnesty International would like to draw to your attention its latest report, published today, highlighting human rights violations committed by the police in Mozambique.

Mozambican police face numerous challenges stemming from high crime rates, a backlog of criminal cases in the judicial system and occasional violence against police by criminal elements. These have led to pressure from the public for the police to deal with crime decisively and forcefully. Unfortunately, police officers have responded to these challenges by using excessive force, including the unlawful killing of suspects. The cases documented in Amnesty International's report reveal a systematic pattern of police impunity and the inadequacies of the police accountability system. The report urges the Mozambican authorities to ensure steps are taken to address the root causes of these human rights violations. The report recommends the revision of the police codes of conduct to bring them in line with international standards.

The European Commission's Country Strategy Paper (CSP) for Mozambique for 2007-2013 identifies excesses in police actions as a major human rights concern and underlines that mechanisms for democratic control over the police force must be further developed and consolidated. Amnesty International calls on the EU to make use of all relevant opportunities in its co-operation with the Mozambican government to:

- continue to use its influence to encourage the Mozambican authorities to investigate human rights violations by police and to bring perpetrators to justice,
- consider to allocate co-operation funds for human rights training of the Mozambican police, making use of the EU's experience in training police forces in other countries;

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter. As always, we are ready to provide any further input which would be helpful to you.

Yours sincerely,



Natalia Alonso

Deputy Director, Amnesty International EU Office

Cc : Benita Ferrero-Waldner, Commissioner for External Relations
Javier Solana, High Representative for the Common and Foreign Security Policy
Riina Kionka, Mr Solana's Personal Representative on Human Rights
Glauco Calzuola, Head of the delegation of the European Commission to Mozambique
Jose Manuel Pinto Teixeira, Head of Unit « Southern Africa », European Commission, DG DEV
Pantellis Vassiliou, Head of Sector « Southern Africa », AIDCO

Link to the report : www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AFR41/001/2008/en