

Hard days are ahead for regime critics, informants and investigative journalists in Mozambique

Carta de Moçambique, 16 Dec 2021 (jh translation)

Difficult days are ahead for those who have a critical voice against the government of the day. And also for those who "leak" information to newspapers and social networks and for journalists who devote themselves to investigation. From well-placed sources, *Carta* learned that the coming days will no longer be the same in Mozambique, particularly in the military institutions, where a process of building "profiles" of figures who disturb the ruling system has begun.

According to our sources, the list of figures being monitored includes investigative journalists, political opponents, social activists and academics, among other personalities. According to our sources, recently military cadres have had training on monitoring and the use of a security system, called celebrity, which allows them to track and listen to calls, read messages on mobile phones and other electronic devices remotely.

The sources say the system in use in Mozambique is different from the Pegasus spy system, developed by the Israeli company NSO Group and which was blacklisted by the US Government for suspicions of spying on government officials.

On 21 September the Council of Ministers announced the ratification of Credit Agreement Moz 12, between the Government and the Exim Bank of Korea, in May 2021, for \$88,705,000 for the Public Security Management Information System (SIGESP, Sistema de Informação de Gestão de Segurança Pública).

At the end of November, the substitute Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of the Interior (MINT), Eduardo Oliveira, led a workshop to assess a pilot of SIGESP in Nampula city. A criminal investigation laboratory of the National Criminal Investigation Service (SERNIC) with operations rooms will also be built in Nampula.

We have found that part of the material came from the National Agency for Promotion of Technology Industry of South Korea and is monitored by the Company "Moon Engineering", represented by the Engineer Han Chang-Seok.

Our sources assure us that the system will allow tracking criminal activities as well as critics of the Frelimo regime. (O.O.)