



ANGLICAN CHURCH OF SOUTHERN AFRICA
FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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23 November 2020

The Head of State of the Republic of South Africa
His Excellency, President Cyril Ramaphosa

**STATEMENT OF SUPPORT OF ACTIONS TO ASSURE PEACE IN CABO DELGADO
REGION OF NORTHERN MOZAMBIQUE**

We, the Primates of the 14 Anglican Provinces of Africa (covering over 33 national Anglican Churches) and indeed the leadership and members of the worldwide Anglican Communion, view with great concern the crises arising from the Islamic insurgence in the Cabo Delgado region of northern Mozambique. We are appalled by the crimes being committed against communities in the region, atrocities that can best be described as “war crimes”.

News of the mass displacement of vulnerable people (particularly children, women and the disabled) from their homes and communities, forcing them to travel in overcrowded and unsafe open vessels across the seas; the beheading of defenceless individuals and looting of property; the driving out of entire populations from their ancestral homes – resulting in a high number of Internally Displaced Persons in Mozambique and refugees across the border with Tanzania; and other atrocities that dehumanize persons created in the image and likeness of God, have been received with shock and disbelief. We, the Primates of Africa and indeed all well-meaning persons view this as unacceptable and a breach of the inalienable rights of the people affected.

We, the African Anglican Primates, therefore wish to lend our support to all efforts being made by various groups (especially by the Archbishop of Canterbury in collaboration with the Office of the United Nations Secretary General) towards a cessation of hostilities between the insurgents and government forces, for the restoration of peace and the assurance of protection for the people of Cabo Delgado and other areas affected by the hostilities.

As leaders of the Church of God, we believe in God who calls warring factions to “beat their swords into plowshares, their spears into pruning hooks and for nation not to lift up sword against another, neither shall they learn war anymore” (Isaiah 2:4). This is the basis of our support for all the efforts being undertaken – locally through various initiatives in the affected areas, nationally through the activities of key actors including the three Anglican Dioceses in Mozambique and the Province of Southern Africa, regionally with a call on the African Union Commission to intervene, and globally, to ensure the cessation of attacks and a return to peace in Cabo Delgado, the bordering communities and in the country as a whole.

We wish to express our commitment to support any initiative that will ensure a return to normalcy in Cabo Delgado and to lessen the pain of displaced persons (especially in the face of rising cases of COVID-19 infection) and to soothe the grief of families who have lost their relatives in the conflict. We call on all armed groups to cease attacks on defenceless communities and for the Government to call its forces to order in the discipline of protecting lives and building peace.

We are hopeful that our faith in God will lead us and all parties working for sustainable peace in Cabo Delgado to say with the Psalmist that indeed “He [God] makes war to cease unto the ends of the earth; He [God] breaks the bow and cuts the spear in sunder; He [God] burns the chariot in the fire” (Psalm 46:6).

For the African Anglican Primates

THE MOST REVD DR THABO CECIL MAKGOBA
PRIMATE OF THE ANGLICAN CHURCH IN SOUTHERN AFRICA (Republic of South Africa, Lesotho, Swaziland, Mozambique, Niassa, Nampula, Namibia, Island of St Helena and Angola.)

AND

THE MOST REV. ALBERT CHAMA
CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL OF ANGLICAN PROVINCES OF AFRICA (CAPA) AND PRIMATE OF THE CHURCH OF THE PROVINCE OF CENTRAL AFRICA (Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi and Botswana)

On behalf of

PRIMATE, CHURCH OF THE PROVINCE OF ALEXANDRIA
(Egypt, North and Horn of Africa)

PRIMATE, CHURCH OF THE PROVINCE OF BURUNDI (Burundi)

PRIMATE, CHURCH OF THE PROVINCE OF CONGO (Democratic Republic of Congo)

PRIMATE, CHURCH OF THE PROVINCE OF THE INDIAN OCEAN (Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles)

PRIMATE, ANGLICAN CHURCH OF KENYA (Kenya)

PRIMATE, CHURCH OF THE PROVINCE OF NIGERIA (Nigeria)

PRIMATE, CHURCH OF THE PROVINCE OF RWANDA (Rwanda)

PRIMATE, CHURCH OF THE PROVINCE OF SOUTHERN AFRICA (Angola, Namibia, Mozambique, Lesotho, Eswatini, South Africa)

PRIMATE, CHURCH OF THE PROVINCE OF SUDAN (Sudan)

PRIMATE, CHURCH OF THE PROVINCE OF SOUTH SUDAN (South Sudan)

PRIMATE, ANGLICAN CHURCH OF TANZANIA (Tanzania)

PRIMATE, CHURCH OF THE PROVINCE OF UGANDA (Uganda)

PRIMATE, CHURCH OF THE PROVINCE OF WEST AFRICA (Cameroon, Ghana, Guinea, Gambia, Liberia, Sierra Leone)

Yours in the service of the Lord



Ven Horace Arenz