



**AMNESTY
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Abranches Afonso Penicelo (Mozambique)

Abranches Afonso Penicelo – Mozambique – AFR – Impunity – Torture and Extrajudicial Execution – 2000s

Abranches Afonso Penicelo died on 15 August 2007, a day after being shot and burnt by members of Mozambique's Criminal Investigation Police (Polícia de Investigação Criminal--PIC). Alongside partners in Mozambique and Abranches Penicelo's family, Amnesty International members campaigned for those responsible for Abranches' death to be brought to justice. On 11 June 2009, the Maputo Provincial Court convicted a senior police officer of the premeditated killing of Abranches Penicelo and sentenced him to 22 years in prison.

Abranches Penicelo suffered a decade of harassment and intimidation at the hands of the police in Mozambique. In 1997, police officers confiscated possessions from his family home, including jewellery, money and cars. Abranches was arrested and accused of highway robbery and spent 17 months in detention before being acquitted for lack of evidence. The court ordered the restitution of all of the family's property but, to date, nothing has been returned despite repeated requests by the family. Abranches was arrested again in 2007. He was held for over a month, before being tried and again released due to lack of evidence.

On 14 August 2007, Abranches was abducted from his home by at least five police officers from the PIC. He was given an injection, beaten until he lost consciousness and then shot in the back of the neck and set on fire. He was left for dead some 140km from his home, but survived and managed to crawl to the roadside where he was found by passers-by. In hospital, Abranches gave a testimony to the police, which was recorded on a mobile phone by his family. He died the following day of his injuries.

For two years, Abranches' family campaigned for his killers to be brought to justice, but with little success or acknowledgement by the Mozambique authorities. Meanwhile, concerned that human rights violations by police in Mozambique were occurring in a climate of impunity, organizations including Amnesty International were campaigning for greater accountability. Amnesty International members wrote to the authorities in Mozambique, calling for the killers of Abranches Penicelo to be brought to justice.

In January 2009, a senior police officer was arrested for the killing of Abranches Penicelo. On 11 June 2009, the officer was found guilty of premeditated killing and sentenced to 22 years in prison. He was ordered to pay compensation to Abranches' family. An investigation has also begun into the other officers accused of complicity in the murder. Abranches' family said they believe Amnesty International's involvement helped give prominence to their case and contributed to the conviction of Abranches' killer.

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