

50th Session of the UN Human Rights Council
Item 3: Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons

28 June 2022

Delivered by Mickaël Repellin

Thank you, Mr. President,

Madame Special Rapporteur, Franciscans International takes this opportunity to thank you for your important work during your tenure of the mandate. We welcome your present report. Your recommendations are relevant to the situation of Mozambique that is of particular concern to us.

Since 2017, more than 700,000 people fled terrorist attacks in Mozambique's Cabo Delgado province. For the 2019 elections, our local observers reported that most IDPs living in the camps were unable to vote in the constituency where they lived because their voter registration had not been transferred. Returning to their places of origin to vote was impossible because of violence. The lack of information and documentation, as well as the denial of access for independent observers in camps are further obstacles. In Nampula province, young people voting for the first time never received their voter cards.

We would thus appreciate to hear more from you, Madam Rapporteur, on best ways to address these obstacles.

Finally, we take the opportunity to highlight another situation that recently received your attention, namely the situation of IDPs in the conflict areas in West Papua, Indonesia. According to the West Papua Council of Churches, in Kiwirok District only, there are ten camps accommodating over 2000 IDPs. They are afraid to return to their villages where everything was destroyed, and where the presence of the security forces has increased. Children are deprived of education. We urge the Indonesian Government to provide sustainable solutions to the IDPs in West Papua. I thank you.