

EN

E-004336/2025

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas
on behalf of the European Commission
(6.1.2026)

Freedom of religion or belief is one of the key priorities of the EU's external human rights policy. Over many years, the EU has spearheaded the fight against religious intolerance and for freedom of religion or belief.

The persistence of terrorist attacks targeting civilians in Cabo Delgado deserves the EU's full attention. The EU Delegation in Maputo is regularly in contact with national authorities, the National Human Rights Commission of Mozambique, local civil society organisations and other relevant stakeholders.

The volatile security situation in Cabo Delgado is regularly discussed during exchanges with Mozambique authorities, including during the recent Mozambique-EU Partnership Dialogue. Moreover, the EU is actively engaging on the ground through the Military Assistance Mission EUMAM Mozambique, which provides monitoring and specialised training and advisory support to strengthen the capacity of the Armed Forces of Mozambique to prevent and counter terrorist attacks when these occur, in line with international humanitarian law.

The EU-Mozambique Human Rights Dialogue, last held on 29 October 2025, provides an opportunity for the EU and Mozambican authorities to raise the issue of children's rights, focusing on the forced recruitment and use of children as combatants by insurgent groups, which constitutes a serious violation of both human rights and international humanitarian law.

Addressing these challenges and fostering a safer and more tolerant environment for all is a key element of the EU's engagement. The European External Action Service, with the support of EU Delegations, works tirelessly with partner countries to promote and protect Freedom of Religion and Belief and stands ready to join effort with the next Special Envoy.