



**ONE YEAR AFTER
DISAPPEARANCE OF
VITANO SINGANO:
FAMILY REMAINS WITHOUT
ANSWERS AND INVESTIGATION
STILL HAS NO PUBLIC RESULTS**

JULY 2026

One year after the disappearance of Vitano Caetano Singano, President of the Democratic Revolution Party (RD), numerous questions remain regarding his whereabouts and the circumstances surrounding his disappearance.

Since 2 July 2025, family members, party officials, civil society organizations, and various citizens have been calling for clarification from the competent authorities. However, as of the preparation of this newsletter, no public results of the investigations are known, nor has any official explanation been provided regarding the fate of Vitano Singano.

Based on information collected from the family, the leadership of RD, reports published by media outlets, and interviews conducted by the DECIDE Platform, this document summarizes the main events related to the case and analyses its impact from a human rights and rule of law perspective.

WHO IS VITANO SINGANO?

Vitano Caetano Singano became known in Mozambican politics initially as a member of RENAMO, later founding and serving as President of the Democratic Revolution Party (RD).

Throughout his political career, he stood out for his critical positions on governance, anti-corruption efforts, transparency, decentralization of power, and institutional reforms, gaining support particularly among young people, activists, and citizens advocating for political renewal.

His disappearance turned what was initially a local incident into a matter of national interest, closely followed by civil society organizations and national media.

THE DISAPPEARANCE

According to information released by the family, lawyer Sérgio Matsinhe, and RD officials, Vitano Singano disappeared on the afternoon of 2 July 2025 in the city of Beira.

Family accounts indicate that he was traveling on a motorcycle taxi when armed individuals intercepted him near Santa Isabel Cemetery, forced him off the motorcycle, and placed him into an unidentified vehicle.

He has not been seen since.

In the hours that followed, family members sought information at several police stations but state that they received no clarification regarding his whereabouts.

AUTHORITIES 'POSITION

Over the past twelve months, the Police of the Republic of Mozambique (PRM) have stated on different occasions that investigations are ongoing.

However, to date, no public information has been released regarding identified suspects, arrests related to the case, investigative leads, forensic results, or the location of Vitano Singano. In July 2025, leaders of the Democratic Revolution Party raised suspicions regarding possible involvement of officers from the Criminal Investigation Service (SERNIC). However, these allegations were never confirmed by the authorities nor supported by publicly available evidence.

THE FAMILY'S VOICE

As part of monitoring carried out by the DECIDE Platform, the wife of Vitano Singano, Cidália Paulino, was interviewed on 26 June 2026, and stated:

“My family and I want the Provincial Government of Sofala to help bring my husband back. We filed a complaint with the Attorney General's Office, but we have not received any information on the progress of the investigation. Since his disappearance, we have had no contact with him. We want justice and to know where he is.”

According to Cidália Paulino, the absence of Vitano Singano has caused severe emotional, economic, and social consequences for the entire family.

She adds that the prevailing feeling is one of distress due to the lack of responses from responsible institutions.

POSITION OF THE DEMOCRATIC REVOLUTION PARTY

The leadership of the Democratic Revolution Party also informed the DECIDE Platform that it continues to have no official information regarding the whereabouts of its President.

According to provincial party officials, no institution has formally communicated the results of any investigations conducted during this period.

The party maintains that the case must continue to be investigated until it is fully clarified.

A HUMAN RIGHTS PERSPECTIVE

The disappearance of a person raises a set of fundamental rights protected both by the Constitution of the Republic of Mozambique and by international human rights instruments ratified by the State. These include the right to life, the right to liberty and security of the person, the right of access to justice, and the right of families to know the truth about the fate and whereabouts of the missing person — all essential elements of the democratic rule of law.

At the constitutional level, these rights are enshrined in the chapter on fundamental rights, freedoms, and guarantees, which impose on the State the duty to respect, protect, and promote human dignity, as well as to ensure effective mechanisms of investigation and accountability in cases of serious violations.

At the international level, Mozambique is bound by instruments such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Articles 3 and 10), which affirm the right to life, liberty, and a fair trial; the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Articles 6, 9, and 14), which strengthens protection against arbitrary detention and guarantees the right to life and personal security; and the African Charter on Human and Peoples 'Rights (Articles 4, 6, and 7), which provides for the protection of life, physical integrity, and the right to an effective remedy before competent institutions.

Additionally, although Mozambique is not party to all specialized instruments, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance remains a relevant

normative reference, defining State obligations for prevention, investigation, and clarification of disappearance cases.

In this context, although there are currently insufficient publicly available elements to legally qualify this case as an “enforced disappearance” under strict international law definitions, the prolonged absence of official clarification reinforces the obligation of authorities to conduct a prompt, independent, impartial, and effective investigation, as well as to ensure regular and transparent communication with the victim’s family, as a key component of the right to truth and justice.

The lack of answers continues to fuel concern among the family, members of the Democratic Revolution Party, and various sectors of civil society.

Regardless of the eventual findings, the investigation of this case remains a responsibility of the State and a test of institutional capacity to ensure justice, transparency, and the protection of fundamental rights.

The DECIDE Platform considers it essential that the authorities maintain an active investigation, provide regular updates to the family, and ensure that all necessary investigative steps are undertaken to fully clarify the facts.