DECIDE REPORT

Mozambique, 24th November 2026

SIXTH DAY OF VENÂNCIO MONDLANE'S TRIAL MARKED BY QUESTIONING BY THE DEFENCE AND THE SCREENING OF VIDEOS



The trial of Venâncio Mondlane, leader of the ANAMOLA party, continued on Tuesday (24 November 2026) at the Supreme Court in Maputo. The hearing was devoted to questioning the defendant by the defence, with videos being shown and information presented about the elections, victims of the demonstrations, telephone records and the losses claimed by the Assistant company. The hearing ended at around 3:05 p.m. and will resume tomorrow, 25 November, at 10:00 a.m.

Summary of the Day

- **Questioning by the defence:** Venâncio Mondlane answered the defence's questions, beginning with the allegations of radicalisation and subversion of public order, which he described as false.
- **Disputed telephone records:** the defendant maintained that the lifting of telecommunications confidentiality had been authorised on the same day, without terms of reference, and that the traffic reports bore no logo and followed no criteria; he therefore considered the chart to be false.
- **Videos and information:** he showed videos in which he urges young people not to destroy shops and warns about the presence of infiltrators. He also presented information from Amnesty International, interventions by the European Union, statements by Mozambican public figures and other material.
- **Disputed losses:** he challenged the figure of 190 million presented by the Assistant company, referring to the financial statements and audit, which, he said, indicated that the company's property losses amounted to 28 million meticais.
- **The Court's response:** the judge said that the Court would issue a response, referring to the period from Wednesday to Friday.

1. Opening of the hearing

The hearing began shortly after 10:00 a.m., but the parties were only given the floor some time later because signing the minutes took between 20 and 30 minutes. The trial has been attended by various people and organisations, notably the European Union, which has been represented on a rotating basis, as well as political parties, journalists, civil society members and other public figures.

First, the defence requested that a technician be made available to assist with the screening of videos. The judge granted the request.

2. Questioning of the defendant by the defence

a) Allegations of radicalisation and subversion

The defence's first question concerned the allegation that the defendant had radicalised people and sought to subvert public order. Venâncio Mondlane replied that it was all false. He said that the accusation was based on a communication from a SERNIC agent who, during the campaign, allegedly mentioned the creation of a mechanism to subvert public order, without photographs or videos and based solely on meetings. According to Mondlane, given that the alleged offences are considered serious, this information is abstract and unfounded.

b) Telephone records and wiretaps

The defendant explained that the Public Prosecutor's Office had asked the Court to lift telecommunications confidentiality and that, on 2 October, the Court authorised the request on the same day, without terms of reference and during the election campaign period. On 8 November, the Public Prosecutor's Office made a further request to lift confidentiality, this time with the relevant terms, and the Court authorised it. The data collection was carried out even though the defendant was not in Mozambique.

Regarding the communications traffic report, he stated that it had neither the institutions' logos nor a covering letter with a reference number, and that the chart followed no criteria; he therefore concluded that it was false. By contrast, the mobile wallet reports had logos and other elements proving their authenticity. He also said that the Public Prosecutor's Office had relied on four contacts to conduct the wiretaps, one of which had been used during the 2023 campaign, and that, among the recordings, he had asked the Court to consider only one: the audio recording that circulated on social media.

c) Electoral irregularities

Venâncio Mondlane presented European Union information concerning allegations of electoral irregularities that had been brought before the European Parliament. He also referred to a court ruling listing 219 cases registered by the Public Prosecutor's Office as electoral offences, and presented a comparison of polling-station minutes and figures from the vote-counting process, which, he said, had been compromised.

d) Demonstration victims and police conduct

The defendant presented data from the first week of the demonstrations, including figures for victims of live ammunition, rubber bullets and physical assaults, which, according to the record, totalled 321 in the first three days. He cited 146 people injured by bullets and five deaths resulting from police action. He also showed videos, broadcast by DW, of situations in which members of the public confronted the police; in one, a woman says that they are killing her brothers. He said that the violence had not resulted from any of his speeches, but from the conduct of the police.

e) Videos calling for calm and warning of infiltrators

To support his claim that he had called for calm, the defendant showed several videos:

- One dated 23 October, in which he asks young people not to smash shops or cars;
- Another in which he says that some people, including police officers, are taking rice and other goods, and that those who do so are not part of the group. He also recalled that some businesspeople support the movement;
- Another, dated 10 December, about infiltration, in which he states that violence was never the cause of the struggle;
- One addressed to the business community, in which he asks that shops belonging to both foreign and Mozambican owners not be destroyed and that there be no ethnic persecution.

He also presented a speech attributed in the record to Graça Machel, according to which people's reaction was legitimate, but the violence was the work of infiltrators. He further presented the testimony of Samantha Lemos, who said that the police abandoned a factory while it was operating and that people subsequently entered, destroyed the machinery and set it on fire. At one point, the judge called for order in the courtroom.

f) Departure from the country and escalation of violence

Venâncio Mondlane said that he had been forced to leave the country for security reasons and argued that the escalation of violence was not due to the call for a march, but to police conduct. In this regard, he showed a video from the first day of the demonstrations.

g) Losses claimed by the Assistant company

The defendant said that he had brought a detailed report covering the period from 2023 to 2025 and challenged the figure of 190 million presented as losses. He urged the Public Prosecutor's Office to pay attention, because the complainants had not referred to these losses in the 2024 and 2025 financial years. According to him, page 91 of the financial statements showed that write-offs relating to this type of property damage amounted to 28 million meticais and that, after deducting depreciation, the figure would be 17 million.

He considered this to be a case of unjust enrichment and added that the company had always made a profit and had even distributed dividends to shareholders after the demonstrations. He said that this was an opportunity to report the company's management to the Public Prosecutor's Office.

h) Subversion and State agents

Finally, Venâncio Mondlane presented a document from Amnesty International's report entitled "Protest Under Attack", referring to pages 14 and 29, which contain a projection. He explained what subversion meant in his view, linking it to State agents and also to violations of freedom of communication.

3. Adjournment

The judge said that the Court would respond to the Assistant's request to question the defendant once again, on the basis of what had been said. From Wednesday, 25 November, to Friday, 27 November, the witnesses for the Public Prosecutor's Office and the Assistant will be heard. The hearing ended at around 3:05 p.m.

Next hearing and points to follow

- **Wednesday, 25 November 2026, at 10:00 a.m., at the Supreme Court.**
- The Court's response, announced by the judge for the period from Wednesday to Friday.

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