

Fernandes case defendant now denies Mozambique involvement

S'com 4(16) 26/4
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ALEXANDRE CHAGAS, main defendant in the Evo Fernandes murder trial, has now withdrawn the accusations which led to the expulsion from Portugal of Mozambican diplomat Rafael Marques last month.

Chagas, who originally alleged that he received money and escape plans from Marques, now claims that his earlier statements were falsified by the police, when he was in a state of exhaustion.

Testifying in court in Cascais, outside Lisbon, in mid-April, Chagas told the judge in a preliminary hearing that he killed Fernandes, a former secretary-general of the MNR, on his own and "without any instructions from Maputo" according to Lisbon press reports.