

# MOZAMBIQUE News reports & clippings

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This is a personal project by Dr Joseph Hanlon, with no outside funding.

**J Hanlon's new book "Moçambique recolonizado através da corrupção"**

free on <https://bit.ly/MozRecol> (Portuguese only)

## International investigation says journalists killed to silence press

"Dozens of opposition members and journalists have been abducted or killed in Mozambique since the 2024 general elections. While authorities have largely failed to investigate the violence, exclusive reporting reveals the involvement of figures linked to the ruling party Frelimo and Mozambican security forces in identifying and targeting government critics," reports a consortium of 30 journalists in 10 countries coordinated by [Forbidden Stories](#). It is an international network of journalists whose mission is to continue the investigations of other reporters who have been silenced. And government has imposed an almost total media blackout on Cabo Delgado and the war, Forbidden Stories reported in two articles yesterday and today (9, 10 June). They were published by the Mozambican consortium member *Zitamar*.

Since the 2023 elections five journalists have been killed and there have been two non-fatal poisonings. A complaint filed by opposition party ANAMOLA with the Attorney General's Office documents six cases in which "death squads" targeted opposition members. One of the highest-profile killings occurred on 19 October 2024 when a hit squad gunned down Elvino Dias, opposition leader and lawyer of presidential candidate Venancio Mondlane, and Paulo Guambe, an official with Podemos, an opposition party that supported Mondlane's candidacy for president. In another incident, on December 22, 2024, unidentified gunmen shot Eugénio Raúl Madeira, a mobilization secretary for Podemos in Zambezia province. Other cases involve members of special police units allegedly abducting and beating political opponents. According to a 2025 [Human Rights Watch report](#), "Mozambican authorities have failed to conduct credible investigations into the wave of political killings following the October 2024 general elections."

Short video - <https://www.youtube.com/shorts/cmv53Zux7QU>

Part 1 - In Mozambique, the Regime Imposes a Blackout on Journalists -

<https://www.zitamar.com/in-mozambique-the-regime-imposes-a-blackout-on-journalists/>

Part 2 - A Campaign of Disappearances: Inside the Killings, Abductions and Surveillance of

Mozambique's Government Critics - <https://www.zitamar.com/a-campaign-of-disappearances-inside-the-killings-abductions-and-surveillance-of-mozambiques-government-critics/>

The report highlights the kidnapping of Arlindo Chissale, a 46-year-old reporter and editor of [Pinnacle News](#), an online community newspaper with over 70,000 followers. An expert on his home region of Cabo Delgado, he was one of the most important journalists documenting the war there. Chissale also documented electoral fraud and was a vocal member of the new opposition.

On the morning of 7 January 2025, on a hot and muggy in day in Pemba, Chissale boarded a bus bound for Nacala. During his journey, a white unmarked car suddenly blocked the road. Five men, two reportedly wearing police uniforms, dragged Chissale out of the bus, beat him, shoved him into

the car, and drove away, according to a [UN report](#). Nearly a year and a half after his abduction, Chissale's fate remains unknown, but he is assumed dead.

The "Mozambique Exposed" project found that the use of block leaders called *chefes de quarteirão* "is one of the state's methods for crushing dissent. According to several sources interviewed by the consortium, block leaders are local operatives affiliated with the ruling party to monitor the population at a neighbourhood level. Though they don't have formal administrative status, they remain deeply embedded in the daily lives of Mozambicans [and function] as the neighbourhood's eyes and ears."

"According to a diplomatic source, block chiefs were used to monitor opposition members, including lower-ranking activists who had organized or participated in post-election demonstrations, and would then send their names up the Frelimo ranks. A block chief, who spoke to the consortium on the condition of anonymity, confirmed that in some cases, information circulated between local structures and the authorities," the report said.

**Bishop shot dead.** The Catholic bishop of Quelimane, Osório Citoro Afonso, was shot dead in the early hours of Saturday 6 June at the Episcopal Palace in the Zambézia provincial capital. He was killed with an AKM-type firearm. He was born in Ribáuè, Nampula in 1972. In 2025, he was appointed Bishop of the Diocese of Quelimane and, more recently, Apostolic Administrator of the Archdiocese of Beira, becoming one of the most influential figures in the Catholic Church in Mozambique.

**Follow up on Moz-US health MoU.** The full MoU text, noted in the previous issue of this newsletter and citing Mozambique's commitment to grant access to minerals and to provide health data in exchange for funding, is on <https://www.citizen.org/wp-content/uploads/2026-0008QN-Mozambique-Health-12.15.2025.pdf>

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"Mozambique News Reports & Clippings, number XXX", DATE, bit.ly/Mozamb, accessed XXX.

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## Elections

**CIP Mozambique Elections Bulletin** is published by Centro de Integridade Pública (CIP) <https://www.cipmoz.org>; <https://cipeleicoes.org/eng/cip@cipmoz.org>.

To subscribe or unsubscribe: <https://bit.ly/MozBul-sub> Past election newsletters are on <https://bit.ly/CIP-EI>

**Election study collaboration:** We have detailed election data from 1999 through 2014 and are inviting scholars to use this data collaboratively. <http://bit.ly/MozEIData>

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## Important external links

**Books by Joseph Hanlon can be downloaded, free:** <https://bit.ly/HanlonBooks>

**Flood, cyclone and weather:** weather <https://www.inam.gov.mz/>

rainfall [https://www.inam.gov.mz/images/DAPT\\_Previsoes/Manha/Previsao\\_Manha.pdf](https://www.inam.gov.mz/images/DAPT_Previsoes/Manha/Previsao_Manha.pdf)

**Cyclone trackers,** <https://bit.ly/Reunion-cyclone>, <https://www.metoc.navy.mil/jtwc/jtwc.html>

(which uses z time which is UCT - Coordinated Universal Time) and <https://www.cyclcane.com/>

**Two LSE working papers - World Bank questions its Mozambique 'success'** where oligarchs brought high inequality, poverty and corruption - <https://bit.ly/Moz-LSE-208c> and **How the IMF and World Bank caused a resource curse and civil war in Mozambique** - <https://bit.ly/Moz-LSE-209>

**Minimum wage & exchange rate charts, tables 1996-2022** <https://bit.ly/MozMinWage2022>

Previous editions of this newsletter: <https://bit.ly/MozNews2023> and <https://bit.ly/MozNews2022>

My Mozambique archive: <http://bit.ly/Mozamb>

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## Cabo Delgado

**Cabo Ligado** weekly report on civil war <https://www.caboligado.com/>

Archive with reports, detailed maps, and census data <https://bit.ly/Moz-CDg>

## Special reports on the war

Evolution of the war: global vs local. 27 Feb 2020 <http://bit.ly/CDelgadoOrigins>  
Religion is shaping Cabo Delgado civil war. 30 April 2020 <https://bit.ly/CDelgadoReligion>  
Intensifying argument over roots of war. 28 June 2020 <https://bit.ly/Moz-492>  
Are the drums of war silencing any hope of peace? 26 July 2020 <http://bit.ly/Moz-496>  
A history of violence presages the insurgency. 13 August 2020 <http://bit.ly/Moz-498>  
Military & economic intervention. 3 Sept 2020 <https://bit.ly/CDelgadoIntervene>  
Cabo-Delgado-Free-for-all. 20 Apr 2022. <http://bit.ly/Moz-593>

## Mozambique heroin transit trade

English - LSE - 2018 - <http://bit.ly/Moz-heroin>  
Portuguese - CIP- 2018 - <http://bit.ly/HeroínaPT>  
2001 first article- *Metical* - English and Portuguese <https://bit.ly/MozHeroin2001>

## Gas for development?

Gas\_for\_development\_or\_just\_for\_money? 2015 <bit.ly/MozGasEng>  
Gás\_para\_desenvolvimento\_ou\_apenas\_dinheiro?\_2015 <bit.ly/MozGasPt>

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## Background reading

### Special reports

Social protection report - 2017 Mozambique - <http://bit.ly/MozSocPro>  
Special report on four poverty surveys: <bit.ly/MozPoverty>

### \$2bn secret debt - in English

Secret debt trial (Aug-Oct 2021) press reports <https://bit.ly/Moz-secret-debt>  
Kroll - Full report on \$2bn debt - <http://bit.ly/Kroll-Moz>  
Kroll report summary - <http://bit.ly/Kroll-sum>  
Key points of Mozambique parliament report - Nov 2016 - <http://bit.ly/MozAR-debt-En>  
Following the donor-designed path to Mozambique's \$2.2 bn debt - <http://bit.ly/3WQ-hanlon>

### In Portuguese:

Parliamentary Report on the Secret Debt (complete) <bit.ly/MozAR-debt>  
**2018 Constitution** - <http://bit.ly/2KF588T>

**Twelve books by Joseph Hanlon can be downloaded, free:** <https://bit.ly/HanlonBooks>

**"Moçambique recolonizado através da corrupção"** (2025) <https://bit.ly/MozRecol> (Portuguese only)

Zimbabwe takes back its land (2013) <https://bit.ly/Zim-takes-land>

Bangladesh confronts climate change (2016)

Chickens and beer: A recipe for agricultural growth in Mozambique (2014) is on <https://bit.ly/Chickens-Beer>

Há Mais Bicicletas – mas há desenvolvimento? (2008)

Civil War Civil Peace (2006): <https://bit.ly/Civil-War-Civil-Peace>

Moçambique e as grandes cheias de 2000 (2001)

Mozambique and the Great Flood of 2000 (2001)

Paz Sem Benefício: Como o FMI Bloqueia a Reconstrução (1997)

Peace Without Profit: How the IMF Blocks Rebuilding (1996) <https://bit.ly/Peace-wo-Profit>

Mozambique: Who Calls the Shots (1991) <https://bit.ly/Shots-Moz>

Mozambique: The Revolution Under Fire (1984)

### These are still available for sale:

Galinhas e cerveja: uma receita para o crescimento (2014) (free in English)

Just Give Money to the Poor: The Development Revolution from the Global South (2010)

Do bicycles equal development in Mozambique? (2008) (free in Portuguese)

Beggar Your Neighbours: Apartheid Power in Southern Africa (1986)

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### Mozambique media websites, English:

Club of Mozambique (free): <http://clubofmozambique.com/>

Zitamar (paywall): <http://zitamar.com/>

### Mozambique media websites, Portuguese (all with partial paywall):

Notícias: [www.jornalnoticias.co.mz](http://www.jornalnoticias.co.mz)

O País: [www.opais.co.mz](http://www.opais.co.mz)

@Verdade: <http://www.verdade.co.mz>

Carta de Moçambique <https://cartamz.com>

### Mozambique think tanks and pressure groups, Portuguese:

Centro de Integridade Pública: CIP <https://cipmoz.org/>

Observatório do Meio Rural: OMR <https://omrmz.org/>  
Instituto de Estudos Sociais e Económicos: IESE <https://www.iese.ac.mz/>  
Centro Para Democracia e Desenvolvimento CDD <https://cddmoz.org/> (some CDD in English)  
Also CDD now controls Fórum de Monitoria do Orçamento - FMO (main debt group) <http://www.fmo.org.mz>  
and RMDDH - Rede Moçambicana dos Defensores dos Direitos Humanos (a human rights group).  
To subscribe to all CDD publications: <http://eepurl.com/qO9l6v> (English or Portuguese).

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