

MOZAMBIQUE News reports & clippings

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In this issue

Palma, Cabo Delgado

+ Contractors accuse army of looting in Palma

+ 87 known dead, 15,000 displaced

+ 2 investigations - SADC & government

Comments

+ Could Arco Iris provide a model?

+ Panic over Pemba - but expect more attacks on Palma

Other news

+ Covid-19 falling

+ Chinese miner stopped from destroying dunes

Contractors accuse army of looting in Palma

Many facilities in Pemba which were not attacked by insurgents were looted and sacked after the insurgents left. Contractors to Total blame the police and army.

RTP (7 April) showed the inside of the Amarula Hotel. <https://bit.ly/3dObNNS> The Hotel building was undamaged and clearly had not been attacked, but the restaurant and hotel rooms had been comprehensively looted. One contractor complained that he saw mattresses from his compound stacked outside a police station.

The pictures of a contractor compound in Palma show what happened. The first picture is from 1 April and everything is still intact. The second picture is from 6 April, shows the gate open, containers broken open, and that the white tractor from the tractor-trailer (articulated lorry) has been driven away.

1 April 2021



6 April 2021



87 known dead, 15,000 displaced

87 people are known dead, "80 Mozambicans and seven white people, probably foreigners," reported MediaFAX (9 Apr). This does not include bodies in fresh graves 100 metres from the Afungi Hotel. The graves were shown to TV crews on Wednesday, and police commander Pedro da Silva told TV the buried bodies were all white and thus presumed foreign, tied with the hands behind their back, and beheaded. <https://bit.ly/3dObNNS> His description is not confirmed, and there are not that many foreigners reported missing.

UN Migration (IOM) reported Saturday (10 Apr) that 15,179 people have been registered as displaced from Palma, including 5198 in Mueda, 3637 in Nangade, 2784 in Montepuez, and 2210 in Pemba. Many thousands of displaced are still waiting in Quitanda village, just outside the gates of the Afungi gas camp (now under the control of the Mozambican army, after Total pulled out). Some Total contractors says they have Mozambicans employees in this group, who are not being allowed into Afungi to be evacuated.

Vodafone service partially resumed today, for the first time since the 24 March attack, for Afungi and Quionga, but not Palma.

Fear is growing that Yemen might be the model of what Total will do in Afungi. Total was the lead company for the Balhaf LNG facility in Yemen, which was already producing LNG. When fighting approached Balhaf in 2015 Total pulled out - and has never returned. In 2019 Total said "since 2015, Total and the other foreign shareholders have continued to finance Yemen LNG at a loss, to preserve the site and continue supplying power and water to local communities. The Balhaf plant has therefore remained in good condition."

2 investigations - SADC & government

Five SADC heads of state attended an extra-ordinary SADC summit in Maputo on 8 April. It was called by Filipe Nyusi, SADC chair and Mozambique President. But the other four laid down the line.

For over a year, Nyusi has been calling for foreign help, but wants equipment, money and training the government will control. He does not want anyone from outside looking too closely, and seeing that the war is about a local grievance - increasing poverty and a failure to share the mineral wealth.

But SADC overrode Nyusi and ordered an immediate technical team to go to Cabo Delgado, and report before the end of the month. The intent is to send military force. Zimbabwe President Emmerson Mnangagwa said the summit had agreed that the idea of a SADC military force "should be resuscitated and capacitated immediately so that it can intervene."

Meanwhile, after nearly four years, Nyusi has agreed a task force should go to Cabo Delgado to try to figure out what is going on, and this was agreed at the Council of Ministers Tuesday. MediaFAX (9 April) reports it will be seven ministers and one secretary of state. Ministers are: Defence, Jaime Neto; Interior, Amade Miquidade; Education, Carmelita Namashulua; Agriculture & Rural Development, Celso Correia; Industry & Commerce, Carlos Mesquita; Health, Armindo Tiago; and state administration, Ana Comoana. Also on the group is the secretary of state for youth and jobs, Osvaldo Petersburgo, who probably has the hardest problem.

Comments

Could Arco Iris provide a model to settle the war? In 1995, with the war over and Mozambique open to religion, there was a flood of missionaries of all faiths. Among them were Christian evangelists Heidi and Rolland Baker, who were given an orphanage to run, but were

evicted, apparently because they were forcing the orphans to become Christians. But they had backers in Frelimo and they moved to Cabo Delgado in 2004 which they say on their website "was surrounded by unreached tribal groups with pagan and syncretistic beliefs." They set up Arco Iris to target the Makua who they consider "unreached and unreachable" for Christianity. They have land and an airstrip and plane. They established a mission tourism business which they say attracts "each year thousand of visitors [and] many of our visitors are very generous." With high level Frelimo support, Arco Iris have established a proselytising separatist community with special arrangements allowing free movement of money and people in and out of Mozambique. This is exactly what al Shabaab wanted in 2015 and what they went to war to gain in 2017. Refugees from the Palma attack on 24 March reported that al Shabaab fighters said they were targeting the government administration because those were the people preventing them from creating a separatist community. Would al Shabaab accept the Arco Iris model of separatism plus international links? It could be enough to end the war. (<https://www.irisglobal.org/>; <https://cjimoz.org/news/em-nome-de-deus-ao-paraiso-fiscal-nao-somos-freiras-somos-turistas/>)

Panic over wild rumours of a possible attack on Pemba ignore the tactics of Al Shabaab and, indeed, the history of Renamo guerrilla action 40 year ago. The insurgents do not attack hard targets - like Afungi. They do not risk major loss of life and withdraw under pressure. And they do not occupy places they cannot control. Like Renamo, al Shabaab goes for roads and district towns. Renamo never attacked provincial capitals - they cut them off and attacked outlying neighbourhoods, increasing the pressure, but never actually attacked. And so we look at Pemba. Al Shabaab could not take control of Pemba. Beira during the Renamo war was very similar to Pemba - an isolated city with long and exposed water supply and electricity. Beira was never attacked but the power lines and water pipe were hit repeatedly. It was much more effective to control the water and light than to try to control the city.

However, the 24 March attack on Palma was probably only the first of several, perhaps pushing to permanent occupation as in Mocimboa da Praia - but only after several attacks as happened elsewhere.

Other news

Covid-19 falling

Covid-19 is declining rapidly, from the February peak. There were 7 deaths last week compared to 83 in the second week of February. New cases last week were 573, compared to a peak of 6407 in the first week of February. These numbers are similar to the constant level of the disease from September through December.



Chinese miner stopped from destroying dunes

DingSheng, the company mining the heavy sands in Chibuto, Gaza, was stopped Friday from destroying the dunes on the coast at Chongoene. The company started to dig a road from main north-south N1 road to the shoreline, and clear dunes to build a warehouse. There were protests and a video went into circulation <https://bit.ly/3a3UuXX>, and on Friday (9 Apr) [provincial authorities told DingShen to stop](#).

The province notes that DingShen plans to transport minerals from Chibuto to the sea and build a dock at this location, but it has so far not even asked for permission. Flattening the dunes is a "flagrant violation of the law", it said.

CDD is now publishing daily reports. The Centre for Democracy and Development (Centro Para Democracia e Desenvolvimento, <https://cddmoz.org/>) under Adriano Nuvunga has taken control of several NGOs, including FMO - Fórum de Monitoria do Orçamento (the debt group) and RMDDH - Rede Moçambicana dos Defensores dos Direitos Humanos (a human rights group). To subscribe to all CDD publications: <http://eepurl.com/gO9l6v> (English or Portuguese).

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Important external links

Covid-19 daily updated data <https://www.facebook.com/miguel.de.brito1> and <https://covid19.ins.gov.mz/documentos-em-pdf/boletins-diarios/>

Daily flood reports - <http://bit.ly/Moz-flood21>

Cyclone trackers, <https://www.cyclocane.com/> and <https://www.metoc.navy.mil/jtwc/jtwc.html>

Cabo Ligado weekly report on civil war <http://bit.ly/CaboLigado>

Previous editions of this newsletter: <http://bit.ly/MozNews2021> and bit.ly/MozNews2020

Downloadable books: <http://bit.ly/Hanlon-books> Election data: <http://bit.ly/MozEIData>

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

Cabo Delgado

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>

Mozambique heroin transit trade

English - LSE - 2018 - <http://bit.ly/Moz-heroin>

Portuguese - CIP- 2018 - <http://bit.ly/HeroinaPT>

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

Background reading

Special reports

Social protection report - 2017 Mozambique - <http://bit.ly/MozSocPro>

Special report on four poverty surveys: bit.ly/MozPoverty

Minimum wage and exchange rates 1996-2018 -- <http://bit.ly/MinWage18>

\$2bn secret debt - in English

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>

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>
Election newsletters are on <http://bit.ly/2H066Kg>

Nine books by Joseph Hanlon can be downloaded, free: <http://bit.ly/Hanlon-books>

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)

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)

Mozambique: Who Calls the Shots (1991)

Mozambique: The Revolution Under Fire (1984)

Apartheid's 2nd Front (1986) <available shortly>

These are still available for sale:

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

Zimbabwe takes back its land (2013)

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)

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

O País: 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).

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