

# MOZAMBIQUE News reports & clippings

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**Also in this issue:**

**First covid-19 cases threaten top people**

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## Quissanga attacked as civil war escalates

Insurgents this morning occupied Quissanga, which is just 60 km by air and 120 km by road north of Pemba. (Lusa 25 Mar) It had been clear since the attack on Bilibiza on 29 January that insurgents were aiming at Quissanga, and there have been repeated attacks in the N380-Bilibiza-Quissango corridor. (This newsletter 467, 31 Jan 2020, and 472, 17 March 2020; A map of the area is available on <https://bit.ly/BilibizaMap>) Quissanga is an important local port providing links to Ibo and other Islands, as well as for shipping cargo north.



The picture shows insurgents in front of the Quissango police station and must be from this attack as it has not been attacked before. No other details are available. AIM today (25 Mar) reports that "other photos show bodies. In one there is a body wearing a uniform of the Mozambican armed forces (FADM), and in another the victim is wearing what seem to be police boots. The other photos are almost certainly of civilians. One is of a man whose body has been badly burnt and mutilated. Another is of a man wearing a pair of sandals, with no sign of any military equipment or uniform. The most gruesome of these photos shows a pile of seven bodies."

Apparently there were few people in the town; in response to growing threats, many had already fled, including by boat to Ibo and Pemba.

The attack comes just two days after insurgents occupied Mocimboa da Praia, on the coast 120 km further north. The insurgents raised their flag on the military barracks and police station, and burned various buildings including three banks and the houses of the mayor and district administrator.

They remained for the day on Monday, fraternizing with local people, and left in the late afternoon without being effectively challenged by security forces. Ministers of defence and interior, Jaime Neto and Amade Miquidade, yesterday travelled to Mocimboa da Praia to see what had gone wrong.

**Bridge down again.** The temporary bridge which provides the only paved road link between Pemba and the gas fields of the north has collapsed again, perhaps due to an overweight lorry, as the picture shows.



The temporary bridge is limited to vehicles of 10 tonnes. The bridge is over the Montepuez River on the N380 south of Macomia, and was a temporary replacement for a bridge that washed out in floods in December. (Bridge on the left of the map on <https://bit.ly/BilibizaMap>) A report of the washout suggests that the bridge had not been inspected or maintained for many years - perhaps since independence - and over years the river slowly washed the soil away from around the bridge piers and no one noticed. The alternative coastal route, from Pemba to Quissanga, remains closed because the bridge on that route over the Montepuez river also washed out and has not been

repaired. (Bridge on the right of the map.) **Comment:** It is the small and frustrating things that make some people argue that Mozambique is becoming a failed state - core infrastructure is not even inspected and dozens of bridges have been damaged or destroyed by overweight lorries. The roads authority imposed weight limits on this temporary bridge, but they were not enforced. *jh*

## First covid-19 cases threaten top people

Lúcia Comiche, the wife of the mayor of Maputo Eneas Comiche, last evening telephoned STV to say she had covid-19 and was "case 2". This makes it clear that Eneas is "case 1". So far there are five positive tests, according to health officials today.

Eneas was in London on 10 March for a meeting of Water Aid; a photo shows him sitting next to Prince Albert of Monaco. Also at the meeting was Prince Charles of Britain. Charles, Albert and Comiche have all tested positive for Covid-19.

On their return the Comiches did not go into isolation, and the Maputo mayor went into a round of meetings with ministers, the Frelimo Political Commission, governors and members of parliament - which means the entire top leadership has been exposed. (*Carta de Moçambique* 25 Mar)

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## Background reading

### Special reports

#### Mozambique heroin transit trade

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

Portuguese - Pt - CIP - <http://bit.ly/HeroínaPT>

#### Gas for development?

Gas\_for\_development\_or\_just\_for\_money?\_2015 [bit.ly/MozGasEng](http://bit.ly/MozGasEng)

Gás\_para\_desenvolvimento\_ou\_apenas\_dinheiro?\_2015 [bit.ly/MozGasPt](http://bit.ly/MozGasPt)

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

Special report on four poverty surveys: [bit.ly/MozPoverty](http://bit.ly/MozPoverty)

2018 Constitution - <http://bit.ly/2KF588T>

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-full>

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](http://bit.ly/MozAR-debt)

**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>

**Eight 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)

Há Mais Bicicletas – mas há desenvolvimento? (2008)

Moçambique e as grandes cheias de 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)



**Two more will be available shortly to download:**

Apartheid's 2nd Front (1986)

Mozambique and the Great Flood of 2000

**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)

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**Mozambique media websites, Portuguese:**

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>

Carlos Serra Diário de um sociologo: <http://oficinadesociologia.blogspot.com>

**Mozambique media websites, English:**

Club of Mozambique: <http://clubofmozambique.com/>

Zitamar: <http://zitamar.com/>

Macauhub English: <http://www.macauhub.com.mo/en/>

AIM Reports: [www.poptel.org.uk/mozambique-news](http://www.poptel.org.uk/mozambique-news)

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