

MOZAMBIQUE News reports & clippings

479 9 April 2020

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Insurgent push in Cabo Delgado

Insurgents made a major attack in Muidumbe district, Cabo Delgado this week. They also reoccupied Bilibiza on Monday (6 April), and at a meeting told local people that Islamic practices would now be followed. On the same day they occupied Miangalewa on the N380 road in Muidumbe, and stayed the whole day. The N380 is the only paved road from Pemba to Palma and Mocimboa da Praia and has been reopened to light trucks. (Detailed maps are on the next page.)

On Tuesday insurgents moved from Miangalewa up the N381 road toward Mueda, occupying Xatia, Namacande (district town of Muidumbe), Ntchinga, and Muatade villages.

The occupation of Ntchinga was particularly provocative because this has been a Frelimo base in the liberation war; it is still a military base, and it is claimed the soldiers fled. The insurgents have been criticised by President Filipe Nyusi of being "faceless" and not stating their goals. And they used their occupation of Ntchinga to record a second video to respond. At a public meeting, and speaking in the local language, kimwani, they said: "We are occupying this village to show that the government of the day is unfair. It humiliates the poor to the advantage of bosses. Those who are detained are those of the lower class, so this is not fair. Like it or not, we are defending Islam. We want an Islamist government, not a government of unbelievers. We are children of here and these faces are not new. And in the forest, we are many." (Carta de Moçambique 8 Apr)

In the district town, Namacande, insurgents first attacked the security force base and the police post and captured weapons, then attacked public institutions and shops, notably the district government office, Millennium Bim bank, and the local petrol station.

In Miangalewa they burned the Catholic church, shops, the workshop of the security firm Arkje, and kidnapped some people; one report says 6 people were killed. They attacked the military camp guarding the Japanese firm Konoike repairing the N380 bridge over the Messalo river. The soldiers fled and all vehicles and machinery at the construction camp were destroyed. In Muatade the secondary school, health post, houses and other infrastructure were burned. (@emorie, LUSA 7 Apr, CDD 8 Apr)

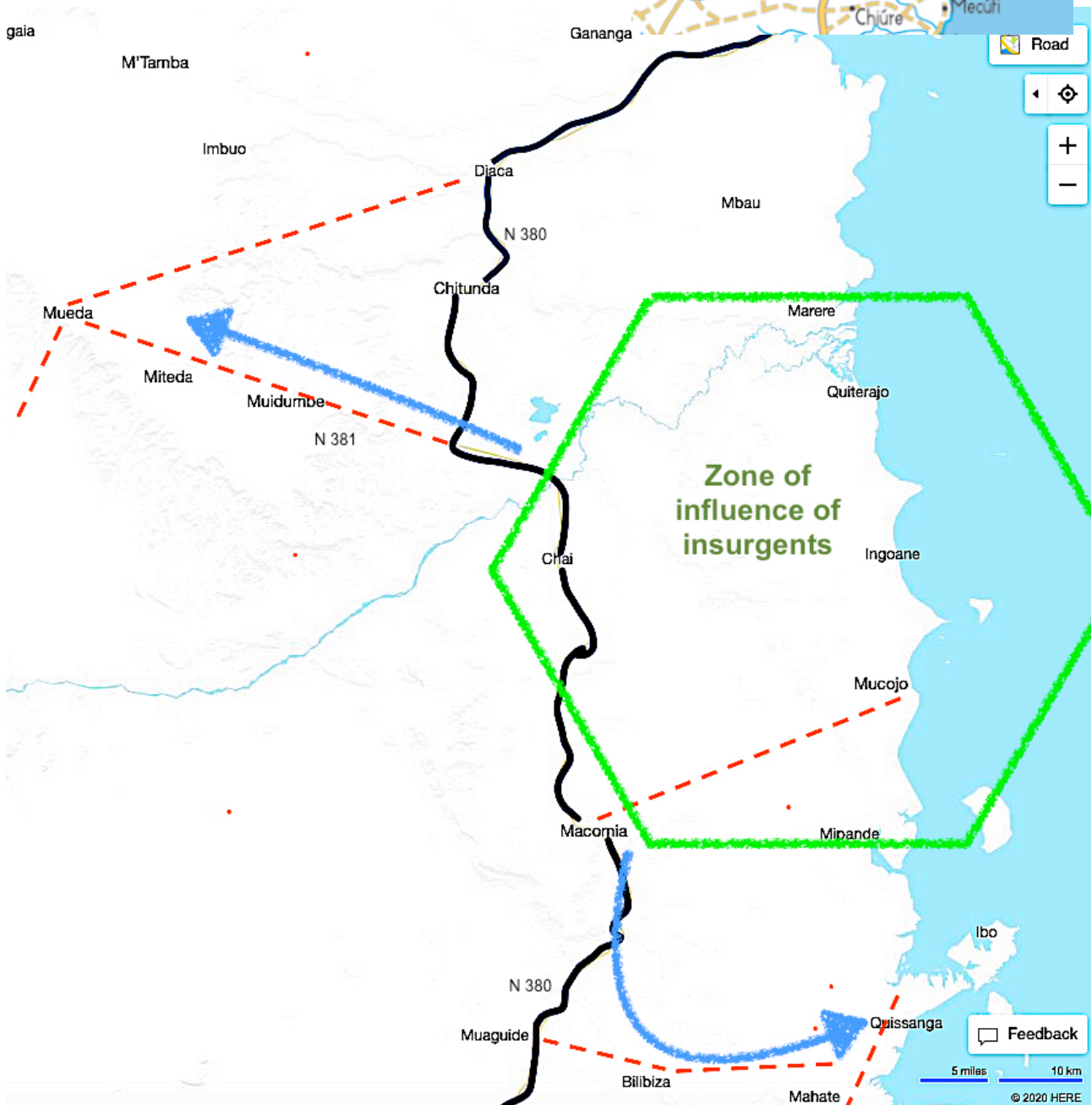
Low flying South African registered helicopters with machine guns and white crew, apparently the Russian Wagner mercenaries, were photographed Tuesday and Wednesday flying up the coast and there are reports of fighting in Muidumbe.



Maps of the area. The map to the right shows the northeast of Cabo Delgado from Pemba, the capital of Cabo Delgado and the only port in the province, north to Palma, where the gas development is on the Afungi Peninsula just south of Palma. (Ezilion.com map)



The second map, below, shows the area of recent warfare from Quissanga to Mocimboa da Praia. The black N380 road is the only paved road. Dashed red lines are main dirt roads. The hexagon shows the approximate area where the insurgents are largely in control. The two blue arrows show the recent pushes, in the south through Bilibiza to Quissanga, and in the west into Muidumbe toward Mueda. (drawn on Bing map)



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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/HeroinaPT>

Gas for development?

Gas_for_development_or_just_for_money?_2015 bit.ly/MozGasEng

Gás_para_desenvolvimento_ou_apenas_dinheiro?_2015 bit.ly/MozGasPt

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

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

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

\$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>

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

O País: www.opais.co.mz

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

Carlos Serra Diário de um sociólogo: <http://oficinasociologia.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

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