

# MOZAMBIQUE News reports & clippings

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## From the editor

I started with this newsletter in 2000 just to report the murder of friend and journalist Carlos Cardoso and the suffocating of 80 people in a Montepuez jail, and never intended it to be permanent. Here we are 20 years, 500 issues and 7000 subscribers later - much to my surprise. This has always been a personal exercise done unpaid in my spare time, and there have been many gaps and changes. For example, during the electoral period, I did an election newsletter with 465 district correspondents and did not have time to write this one. Times change, and in 20 years there has been a growth of social media and good reporting on Mozambique in English and Portuguese. So the next change is less frequent publication, with more summary reports and more articles attempting to put events into context. For those who want the news reports, there is a list of contacts at the end of this newsletter. Many thanks for your support and I hope you find the modified format interesting and useful. *Joseph Hanlon*

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## Cabo Delgado war special report:

### How might military and economic intervention shape the war?

In a separate attached pdf and on <http://bit.ly/CDelgadoIntervene>

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## In this issue

### Media crackdown continues

+ Canal firebombed

+ Government still after Castel-Branco

### Covid-19

+ Numbers jump as restrictions eased

+ Maputo Is the centre

### Cabo Delgado war

+ Attempt to retake Mocimboa da Praia

+ Islands attacked

### Other daily and weekly news sources

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## Media crackdown continues

**Canal de Moçambique was firebombed** on Sunday 23 August. Attackers broke through two security doors, stole computers, then sprayed petrol around the office and set fire to it. Canal investigations have exposed corruption at the top of Frelimo, most recently a battle between Frelimo elites for the control of fuel imports. Earlier it published a secret contract between Anadarko and the Ministry of Defence for troops to guard Afungi in which payments went into personal accounts. Rather than investigate an illegal contract, the Attorney General's office said Canal would be prosecuted for published a secret document. Executive editor Matias Guente was interrogated on 10 July and was expected to be interrogated again this week. There was also a failed attempt to kidnap Guente late last year.

**The Public Prosecutor's Office has appealed** for a second time against the acquittal of economist Carlos Nuno Castel-Branco and the editor of *MediaFax*, Fernando Mbanze, accused of libelling former president Armando Guebuza. The appeal will be the second after a lower court

rejected the prosecutors' first appeal against their acquittal in September 2015. The case is over a post by Castel-Branco on his Facebook page in November 2013, severely criticising the then-president and calling for him to resign. *Mediafax* reprinted the post.

**The Pope defended Bishop Lisboa** and President Nyusi was effectively forced to apologise for attacking the Bishop. President Nyusi and his praise singers strongly attacked the Bishop of Pemba for defending rights of people in Cabo Delgado. (14-17 August) Nyusi stressed that Bishop Lisboa was a foreigner living in Mozambique. But the Pope publicly defended his Bishop, and privately pointed out that he had supported Nyusi's campaign with an unprecedented Papal visit to Mozambique during the election campaign. With tail between his legs, Nyusi visited the Bishop when he was in Pemba on 31 August.

## Covid-19

**Cases have jumped while restrictions have been eased.** New Covid-19 cases reached 123 on 1 September and the number of new cases in August was double the number in July. There have been 25 deaths. The Council of Ministers said Tuesday (1 Sept) that it was "very preoccupied" that people were ignoring the restrictions, which have actually been loosened under the renewed state of emergency.

**3.8% of people Maputo have had Covid-19**, according to a survey by the National Health Institute which tested 10,000 people. Of those, 71% have been without symptoms. Half of those tested are randomly selected, and the other half are from high exposure groups. In the Maputo fish market, 9.5% of traders have had Covid-19. More than half of the 4117 confirmed Covid-19 cases in Mozambique are in Maputo and Matola.

Daily updated data and good graphs are posted on <https://covidmoz.netlify.app/>  
Official daily Covid-19 reports are posted on <https://www.misau.gov.mz/index.php/covid-19-boletins-diarios>

## Cabo Delgado war

For war updates, *Cabo Ligado Weekly* on <https://acleddata.com/cabo-ligado-mozambique-conflict-observatory/> To subscribe <https://bit.ly/CaboSub> and click on "Cabo Ligado: Mozambique Conflict Observatory" at the bottom of the form.

## South Africa joins the competition to provide coastal protection, but Mozambique is reluctant

"If it's more intelligence support, if it's the SA Navy patrolling the coast, if it is assistance from our Defence Force, we as South Africa stand ready" to be involved in Cabo Delgado, South Africa's International Relations and Co-operation Minister Naledi Pandor told Parliament's International Relations Committee yesterday. (Wednesday 2 Sept) Her presentation noted that maritime security could be "with other partners". France and the US are also bidding to take over maritime security.

But she stressed to the Committee that Mozambique must ask for SADC or South African involvement, and it had not done so. At the 19 May summit SADC had agreed to support Mozambique on the Cabo Delgado insurgency, but Pandor told the Committee that it was up to Mozambique to decide what help it needed. At the 17 August SADC summit, Mozambique was reminded that at the 19 May meeting it had been asked to submit a roadmap of its needs. It still has not done so. Without that, South African cannot even send fact-finding mission to Cabo Delgado, she said. (*Daily Maverick*, 3 Sept)

**Comment:** As we note in the new special report today and have reported earlier, there are huge divisions in Frelimo and the military and police about the role of foreign military forces. Pandor's

frustration suggests that Frelimo still has not resolved its internal conflicts. *jh*

**An attempt to retake Mocimboa da Praia** has begun. On Saturday (29 Aug) 20-30 vehicles carrying paramilitary riot police (Rapid Intervention Unit, UIR, who are doing most of the fighting) went on the main N380 road from Pemba to Mueda. Recently armed local militias in the villagers of Miangalewa, Chitunda, and Xitaxi in the lowlands of Miudumbe district were told on 27-28 August to move people away as a major military operation "would happen in the coming days.". And on 30 August the UIR convoy met a group of 100 insurgents in Miangalewa and, supported by DAG helicopters, appear to have won the battle. UIR based in Mueda have this week been fighting their way down the road toward Mocimboa da Praia. (*Cabo Ligado* 1 Sept, Pinnacle News)

**Islands close to the coast are being attacked** by insurgents, since the insurgents took control of Mocimboa da Praia port on 11 August. Many people from the mainland had taken refuge there from fighting, and are now fleeing back to the coast. The village of Pangane is said to have 5000 refugees. People have been killed and kidnapped in attacks on two islands and boats. And in a still unexplained incident, two dhows carrying refugees from the coastal village of Nkomangano were attacked by two motor boats; one dhow was sunk killing 40 people. People on the other dhow said the attackers wore military uniforms, but it is unclear if the attackers were Mozambican navy or insurgents, because the insurgents have obtained many military uniforms. Indeed, for the 11 August attack, many insurgents simply walked into Mocimboa da Praia in government uniforms. (*Zitamar* 2 Sept, *MediaFax* 19 Aug)

**My article "Isis is not driving the Cabo Delgado war"** was published by the Mail + Guardian: <https://mg.co.za/africa/2020-08-25-isis-is-not-driving-the-cabo-delgado-war/>

## Other daily and weekly news sources

### In English:

**Club of Mozambique** on <https://clubofmozambique.com/latest-news/> reprints a good daily set of news articles, including translating some articles from the Mozambican press and LUSA into English. Subscribe on <https://clubofmozambique.com/newsletter/>

**Zitamar** on <https://zitamar.com/> is the best daily newsletter, but with a partial paywall (means only the first paragraphs of most article can be read - still useful)

**Cabo Ligado** on <https://acleddata.com/cabo-ligado-mozambique-conflict-observatory/> The best weekly war updates. To subscribe <https://bit.ly/CaboSub> and click on "Cabo Ligado: Mozambique Conflict Observatory" at the bottom of the form.

### Daily news in Portuguese:

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

**OPaís** on <http://opais.sapo.mz/> Partial paywall

**Carta de Moçambique** on <https://cartamz.com/> Best investigative and economic. Partial paywall.

### Research and pressure groups in Portuguese with regular reports

**Centro de Integridade Pública (CIP)** on <https://cipmoz.org/>

**Observatório do Meio Rural (OMR)** on <https://omrmz.org/>

**Instituto de Estudo Social e Económicos (IESE)** on <https://www.iese.ac.mz/>

**Centro Para Democracia e Desenvolvimento (CDD)** on <https://cddmoz.org/> publishes a daily political comment and now runs the Fórum de Monitoria do Orçamento (FMO) which campaigns on debt.

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## **Important external links**

Previous editions of this newsletter: [bit.ly/MozNews2020](http://bit.ly/MozNews2020)

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

Other Mozambique material [bit.ly/mozamb](http://bit.ly/mozamb)

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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>

2001 first article - English and Portuguese <https://bit.ly/MozHeroin2001>

#### **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, 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)

### **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>

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/>

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