

# MOZAMBIQUE News reports & clippings

499 17 August 2020 Editor: Joseph Hanlon ( [j.hanlon@open.ac.uk](mailto:j.hanlon@open.ac.uk) )

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## **President Nyusi and his praise singers attack Pemba bishop for defending rights**

President Filipe Nyusi used a speech in Pemba on Friday (14 Aug) to "lament those Mozambicans who, well protected, take the suffering of those who protect them lightly - including certain foreigners who freely choose to live in Mozambique but who, in the camouflaged name of human rights, don't respect the sacrifice of those who keep this young homeland standing, and guarantee their stay in Cabo Delgado and Mozambique in general." (Zitamar 17 Aug)

Nyusi's two main social media praise singers made clear Nyusi was referring to the Brazilian Catholic Bishop of Pemba, Luis Ferbando Lisboa, who has been one of the most consistent voices speaking out on behalf of the people of Cabo Delgado. But Egidio Vaz writes that "He's the one who feeds the insurgents. ... He's a criminal" and should be expelled from Mozambique.

<https://www.facebook.com/egidiovaz> (16 Aug) Vaz has been attacking foreigners who report the Cabo Delgado war, saying Tom Bowker of Zitamar "is pro-terrorism. He profits out of our country's misery". (10 Aug)

Gustavo Mavie writes long and vitriolic articles attacking the critics of whomever is currently president, and was recently appointed by Nyusi, over much opposition, to Mozambique's Central Ethics Committee. The Bishop is in the "vanguard of those who unfairly criticize the Nyusi Government and the Defence and Security Forces (FDS)." He is "noted not for preaching the Gospel of God as one might expect, but rather for his unjust condemnations and criticisms of the government of Nyusi and of his entire government and defence and security machine of the country." And Mavie pointedly compares the killings by the Islamists to the Inquisition by the Catholic church.

<https://www.facebook.com/gustavo.mavie> (16 Aug)

But the Bishop has not ignored the atrocities committed by the insurgents. Rather he has been arguing the widespread abuses by the FDS are creating recruits for the insurgents and not gaining

local support. Luis Bitone, president of the National Human Rights Commission, recently said excess force and brutality are being used by the military. (Moz24h, 13 July) The Bishop also says that to understand the war more investigation is needed, by journalists and researchers, but this is being blocked. Palma radio journalist Ibraimo Mbaruco has been held incommunicado by the military for more than four months. He was detained on 7 April.

The point was underlined this morning at a Webinar on Violent Extremism in Mozambique hosted by the South African government's Human Sciences Research Council. Piers Pigou of the International Crisis Group said he was concerned about the purely military option. There has been no attempt to address human rights and the government need a proactive strategy to win "hearts and minds" - which is the core of any successful counter-insurgency strategy.

Enio Chingotuane of the Joaquim Chissano University in Maputo (formerly ISRI) said "we do not have a local counter-violence strategy. We need to respond to local issues. The government is losing ground and giving away the population to the insurgents. It needs a plan to win hearts and minds."

But it appears to not be a message the President Nyusi and his social media praise singers want to hear.

### **Police impose curfew on Mueda town**

A curfew from 18h30 to 06h00 has been imposed by the police of Mueda town. No one can be on the street, and there can be no commercial or bank transactions during the period, the 11 August statement says. Mueda is seeing a substantial increase in military forces (partly fleeing Mocimboa da Praia, but also because the town appears to be being developed as the central base for the military and police in the civil war. Macomia town's small airstrip was being upgraded as a forward base for DAG helicopters, but it appears that it is too vulnerable to attack. As Mueda becomes fortified, will insurgents risk an attack, or simply continue to attack the roads and try to isolate the town - the Renamo war strategy?

**Clashes between FDS and insurgents continue** in and around Mocimboa da Praia, army sources told Lusa today (Monday 17 Aug). "The confrontations continue and the region is practically abandoned. A good part of the small population that was still there has fled," said a source from the Mozambican army." Intelyse (17 Aug) reports key roads leading to Mocimboa da Praia and further north remain under the control of insurgents.

**Refugees are increasing.** Since 5 August as fighting intensified north of Macomia, particularly around Chai (leading to the occupation of Mocimboa da Praia), people have been fleeing south. Minibuses are still running from Macomia town to Pemba, but they have doubled their fares. (*Carta de Moçambique*, 12 Aug) Cholera has also hit Pangane on the coast of Macomia, where many people have fled; at least 28 have died. Cholera has also been reported in Mocimboa da Praia. (Zitamar, 27 July)

**Religious leader** Sheik Bacar Saíde and three others were held for two days for interrogation by the riot police in Pemba. Originally from Mucojo, Macomia, he has been held for a month by the riot police in 2018 and then moved to Pemba. (*Carta de Moçambique*, 28, 29 July)

**Fundamentalist Christian targeting of government** receives much less publicity than Islamic fundamentalism, perhaps because Islam is the new global enemy. But research has recently been published in the Brazilian journal *Revista de Antropologia* on the way the powerful Brazilian Pentecostal church IURD successfully targeted Frelimo and the Mozambican government. <http://www.revistas.usp.br/ra/article/view/165231>. IURD (Igreja Universal do Reino de Deus, Universal Church of the Kingdom of God) has become the largest and most powerful church in southern Mozambique, and it did so by backing Frelimo. Researcher Livia Reis Santos shows how government gave IURD a radio and TV licence (Miramar), which initially functioned from a Frelimo

Central Committee building in Sommerschield, Maputo. Presidents Chissano, Guebuza and Nyusi, as well as various ministers, were prominent at IURD ceremonies. First Lady Maria da Luz Guebuza took a particularly prominent role in IURD activities. On its side, IURD eulogised Frelimo and its presidents, and actively and strongly backed Frelimo in elections.

## Secret debt case to go ahead in London

The London High Court has allowed Mozambique's \$2 bn secret debt case against Credit Suisse and Prinvest to go ahead. The secret debt contracts are adjudicated in the London High Court, and last year Mozambique commenced proceedings claiming that the supply contracts were one-sided and amounted to "shams" or "instrument of fraud" and that bribes were paid to certain officials and individuals in Mozambique, and the lead salesman and negotiator of Prinvest. Mozambique claimed that there was a conspiracy to render it liable under the guarantees and that Prinvest and Credit Suisse were liable for damages for that conspiracy. Prinvest and subcontractors applied to the court to delay proceedings to allow arbitration. On 15 July the High Court rejected this appeal, saying it was not reasonable to delay the case for three years, and the case will now go ahead. No date has been set.

More details are on:

<https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=3beb37e7-54fa-4aba-9251-69c2341397de>

<https://www.casemine.com/judgement/uk/5f02ad3e2c94e00efbd87b96>

## Covid-10 jumps, but the real emergency is malaria & HIV

Mozambique's Covid-19 new case rate has tripled in less than three weeks. The case rate has jumped from 26 per day on 26 July to 79 on 15 August (7 day moving average). Total cases are now 2800 and growth is exponential; deaths are still only 19.

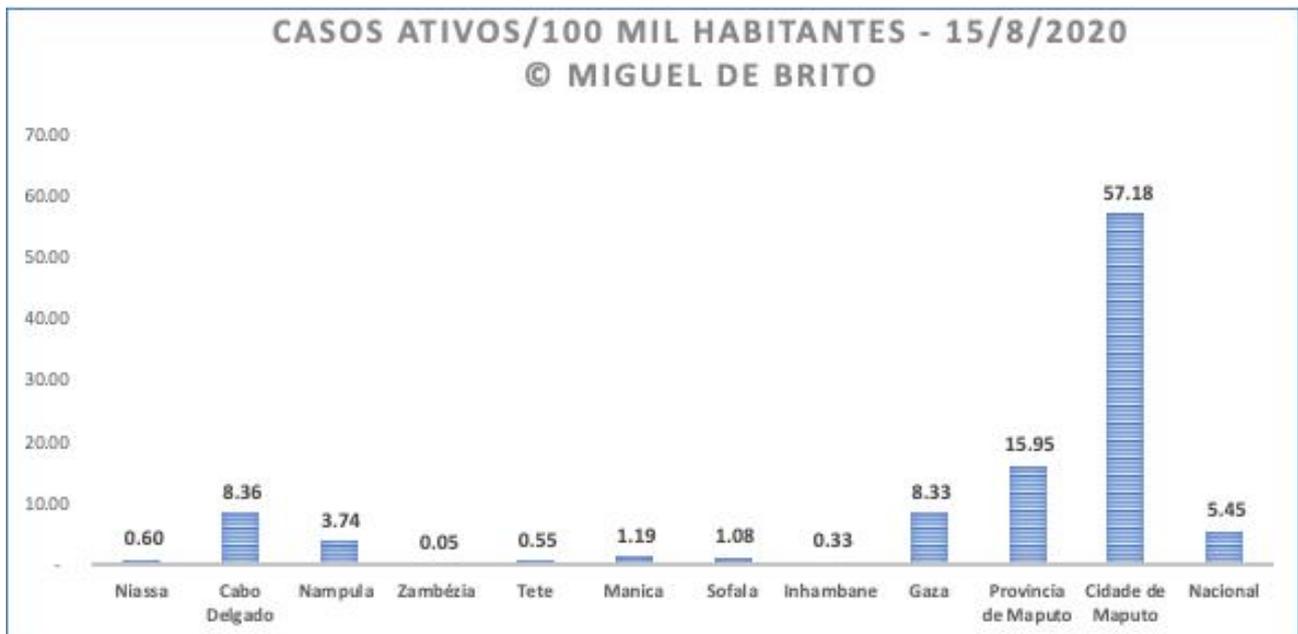
The real emergency is malaria and HIV, warned Eduardo Samo Gudo, deputy director of the National Health Institute. Malaria affects 9 million Mozambicans and killed 14,000 last year; 2 million live with HIV which killed 51,000 last year. (@Verdade, 9 Aug)

South Africa, with double the population of Mozambique, has had 570,000 Covid-19 cases and 11,500 deaths, but the number of daily new cases has dropped from 12,000 per day a month ago to 4,000 per day now. The lockdown is seen as successful, and has been eased, including permitting sales of alcohol and cigarettes.

South Africa has 8 million people living with HIV/AIDS and more than 75,000 have died of the disease last year. So South Africa has an HIV rate similar to Mozambique, but a Covid-19 rate more than 300 times as high.

**Maputo with most cases.** Maputo city and province (mostly Matola) have 60% of the active Covid-19 cases. The position on Sunday 16 August was 1,634 active cases: Cidade de Maputo: 629 (38%), Provincia de Maputo: 351 (21%), Nampula: 232 (14%), Cabo Delgado: 209 (13%), Gaza: 125, Sofala: 27, Manica: 25, Tete: 16, Niassa: 12, Inhambane: 5 and Zambézia: 3.

The chart (by Miguel de Brito) gives cases per 100,000 population, which is much higher in Maputo at 57 than even in Matola.



**How many cases are there?** Mozambique's official cases are only those that are testing positive. The National Health Institute has been doing sample surveys, which showed in June the 5% in Nampula city then were seropositive (that is, had or have Covid-19), and of that group, 66% had no symptoms. For comparison, the UK Office for National Statistics does a household survey similar to Mozambique's which find about 6% of people in England and 10% of people in London have now or have had Covid-19. In Mozambique the disease is largely urban, and Mozambique's urban population is about 10 million, which at a 5% infection rate would imply 500,000 cases, compared to the official number of 2,770. Mozambique only has 18 people in hospital for Covid-19; nearly all cases are at home. That also means there must be many deaths at home, perhaps not identified as Covid-19 and simply assumed to be part of the tens of thousands who die of HIV and malaria each year.

**Some loosening of foreign travel** has been announced, There are now 22 border crossings open (7 land, 10 air, 5 sea) and international flights will be resumed. LAM is introducing a weekly flight to Lisbon from 25 August. But foreigners and Mozambicans leaving the country will require formal permission from the Minister of Interior. (@Verade, 17 Aug)

**Schools could not reopen** because so many did not have basic running water and sanitation. The Ministry of Public Works announced (AIM 14 Aug) a \$50 mn set of contracts to 21 companies to upgrade the water and sanitation at 667 secondary schools and 15 teacher training colleges within 90 days. The companies selected must subcontract at least 70% of the work to local companies.

## Finally noticing sexual violence

The media is finally noting the existence of sexual violence. An *O Pais* (8 Aug) investigation found that 28 female students at the police training school in Matalane, Maputo province, had been impregnated by instructors. One gave birth in the bush and the baby died. Eighteen of the women have contracted HIV/AIDS. *Carta de Moçambique* (11 Aug) found that many trainees at Matalan were ineligible but admitted corruptly - with money by young men and sex by young women. The instructors and women have been suspended but the women will be allowed to resume their course next year. The only comment from the police was to condemn the "bad faith" of those who talked to the press.

And more than 20 foster care centres for orphaned and vulnerable children in Nampula have been closed, after inspection found girls had been sexually abused and raped by some managers,

Egídio Sousa, from the Provincial Directorate for Gender, Children and Social Action, said. In addition there was an absence of minimum conditions of accommodation and food. (VOA, 5 Aug)

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### **Important external links**

**Cabo Delgado civil war** weekly report - Zitamar, MediaFax, ACLED - <http://bit.ly/CaboLigado>

**Covid-19** daily updated data and graphs <https://covidmoz.netlify.app/>

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)

**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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