

MOZAMBIQUE 217

News reports & clippings

19 June 2013

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NOTE OF EXPLANATION: This mailing list is used to distribute two publications, both edited by Joseph Hanlon. This is my own sporadic "News reports & clippings", which is entirely my own responsibility. This list is also used to distribute the *Mozambique Political Process Bulletin*, published by CIP and AWEPA, but those organisations are not linked to "News reports & clippings" Joseph Hanlon

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Renamo threat to cut road & rail traffic Thursday

Renamo today said it would cut road and rail traffic in the centre of the country tomorrow, Thursday 20 June.

At a press conference in Maputo, the head of the Renamo information department, Brigadier Jeronimo Malagueta said Renamo was creating a "security perimeter" from the River Save to Muxúnguè in Sofala province. This is to prevent the government from sending riot police and the military from the south to attack the base of Renamo head Afonso Dhlakama at Satunjira, Gorongosa, Sofala, he said.

A 100 km stretch of the main north-south road, the EN1, from the River Save to Muxúnguè, will be closed, Malagueta added. Muxúnguè is where Renamo attacked a police post on 5 April, leaving four police and one Renamo attacker dead. The following day, three people were killed when gunmen attacked road traffic on the EN1. Renamo claimed the first attack but not the second.

Rahil Khan, a political advisor to Dhlakama, also spoke at the press conference and urged all foreigners living in the security zone to leave.

Renamo also says it will close the railway linking the Tete coal mines to Beira port, probably near Savana and Muanza (Sofala).

There was an attack Monday 17 June on a Mozambican military post and arms depot at Savana. Five government soldiers were killed and an unspecified quantity of arms captured. Frelimo and most commentators blame Renamo. But at the press conference Malagueta denied any link to the attack and said the attack was carried out by government

on itself.

There has been one other incident. On 24 May in Vanduzi, Gorongosa district near Dhlakama's headquarters, riot police shot at members of the Renamo "Presidential Guard" (the government says by accident), and Renamo forces shot back, injuring 17 members of the Rapid Intervention Force (FIR - the riot police) .

The sixth round of talks between Renamo and government took place Monday and the deadlock continues. Renamo wants the government and Renamo to submit a joint plan to parliament to change the election administration, while government insists Renamo must simply submit its plan to parliament. A joint proposal would be accepted in parliament because the Frelimo majority would vote in favour, whereas the Frelimo majority has already rejected the Renamo proposal.

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