

# MOZAMBIQUE News reports & clippings

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## **Moving against Renamo**

### **Renamo re-occupying bases in Nampula**

Shooting at an old Renamo base of Navivene in Nampula province caused panic yesterday, as the army pursued Renamo's armed "presidential guard".

Former Renamo guerrillas and members of Afonso Dhlakama's armed presidential guard had remained at the president's house on Rua das Flores in Nampula city after Dhlakama moved to Gorongosa a year ago. But after that base at Satunjira was taken by the army and riot police last week, the armed men left the house and returned to the old base of Navivene, in Karamaja Napome, Nampula-Rapale district, 30-50 km west of Nampula city.

The military and riot police pursued the Renamo men and attacked the base yesterday.

This is a hilly area and the government admitted that Renamo had retained control of nearby Namilasse, in Chinga, Murrupula district, 70 km west of Nampula city, until at least 2007, and only then was it brought under government control. (This newsletter 146, 26 Jan 2009; Noticias 17 Dec 2008. Sadly the excellent Noticias archive is no longer available.)

Thus the war and Renamo military presence in this area is of recent memory, and the shooting created generalised panic and flight.

Voice of America (29 October 2013) points to three other former Renamo bases which may continue to be important: Naminge in Mogincual, Nakira in Meconta, and Nantikwa in Muecate. ([http://macua.blogs.com/moambique\\_para\\_todos/2013/10/confrontos-entre-renamo-e-governo-causam-p%C3%A2nico-em-nampula.html#more](http://macua.blogs.com/moambique_para_todos/2013/10/confrontos-entre-renamo-e-governo-causam-p%C3%A2nico-em-nampula.html#more))

@Verdade reports another attack in Mutivasse, Rapale district, this morning. No further details.

## Maringué base taken

Following the 22 October 2013 Renamo attack on the Maringué police post and then an attack near Maringué yesterday on an army patrol that injured six soldiers, the military moved against Renamo in Maringué. The army first attacked the Renamo office in Maringué, just 200 metres from the police post, and then moved on to the Renamo's Maringué base outside the small town.

In the first years of the war, Renamo's main operational base inside Mozambique was Casa Banana in the foothills of the Gorongosa mountains. After this was taken by Mozambican and Zimbabwean in 1985, but Renamo leader Afonso Dhlakama moved his headquarters to Maringué. After the 1992 peace accord, Renamo kept this as a military base (with the obvious tolerance of the government) until yesterday.

The base had clearly been continuously occupied and the army found arms and other equipment dating back to the war. Notícias today publishes a photo of Dhlakama's Kenyan passport from the war era in the 1980s, in the name of Alfonsi Muanacato Barão, and with stamps showing he had entered the USA, South Africa, Sweden, France and Italy.

There is some confusion about casualties in the various confrontations, including Maringué and Satungira. Military briefings and most media reports suggest both sides are trying to limit casualties, and that there is a pattern in which some shots are fired, the fighting stops long enough for those under attack to leave (usually Renamo but at least once in Maringué, government fled) and then the now empty location is occupied without further shots.

At both Satugira and the Maringué base the military briefing has been that there were no or few casualties on either side. But Renamo has claimed to selected media that there was heavy fighting and high casualties; MediaFax says 41 Renamo fighters and 17 government soldiers died in the Maringué base clash.

## More road attacks

There were Renamo attack on the main N1 road near Muxungué yesterday morning and this morning. Both times convoys were attacked and several people were injured. (<https://www.facebook.com/JornalVerdade>)

@Verdade reports an attack by armed men on a lorry yesterday in Mutivaze-sede, Nampula. One person was killed and the lorry burned. This is apparently the main N8 linking Nampula and Ribaué and about 60 km west of Nampula and in the same Nampula-Rapale area as the other fighting. If confirmed, it would be the first road attack not on the N1 in Sofala.

## Intermediaries?

Renamo did not attend the 25th round of talks in Maputo Monday. It refuses to continue the stalled talks with government without the introduction of some sort of facilitators or mediators. Renamo calls the talked "negotiations" while government says they are merely a "dialogue" and thus facilitators are unnecessary.

During a Tuesday rally in Barué district as part of President Armando Guebuza's "open presidency", a local chief, Peter Macufa, remembered Guebuza of his role as head of the government team that negotiated the peace agreement that ended the war in 1992. He called on the President to use the same skills "to seek all possible paths so that there can be peace". This may have been a subtle way of reminding Guebuza that Sant'Egidio had been facilitators at the Rome negotiations.

## Other Renamo incidents

- Community police in Naputa, Ancuabe, Cabo Delegado attacked a Renamo meeting, injuring six people (one seriously) and destroyed the Renamo office. A local official, Cassimo Cassimo, said "we thought the massive presence of Renamo members since Thursday was strange. We don't want our village to be transformed into a den for Renamo".
- Renamo President Afonso Dhlakama has a right to an armed presidential guard, accepts Edson Macuacua, press spokesman for President Armando Guebuza, in a statement issued today. But when those armed men stop guarding their president and attack the state, military and police posts, and innocent civilians, they become an army which is an unconstitutional force, and that demands a response from the Mozambican military.
- LUSA reports an attack today by Mozambican military on a Renamo base at Sitatonga, with some casualties. Location unclear, probably Manica province west of Muxungué.
- LUSA reported 28 October that the Mozambican military does know where Dhlakama is, and that he fled up the Gorongosa mountains and is "on the banks of the Rio Vunduzi between the two mountain peaks."
- Renamo's former base has a huge number of possible spellings: Satungira (Noticias and here), Santunjira (O Pais), Sadjundjira (Canal), Sadjundira (LUSA) and various others.

## Other military news

- A Mozambican MiG 21 crash landed in Romania on 28 August 2013. It was one of 8 MiGs and two Aerostar Festival light planes bought or leased from Romania, with training. (<http://forum.scramble.nl/viewtopic.php?p=660958>)
- Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff has asked Congress to authorize the donation of three planes to the Mozambican air force. They are Brazilian made Embraer Tucano T-27, a model that has been in use by the Brazilian air force for 30 years. It is a single-turboprop relatively simple basic trainer, but with counter-insurgency capability.

# Kidnappings

## Child victim killed - police link blamed

Kidnappers in Beira murdered a 13 year old child, Abdul Raxid, and his family accuse the police of complicity.

The family organised the ransom money then telephoned the Criminal Investigation Police (PIC). Within minutes, the kidnappers telephoned the family to say that as they had told the police, the child would be killed. And he was, on Saturday. The body was found in Dondo Monday. (O Pais, 29 October)

The family run a small shop in Beira and the boy was kidnapped Tuesday last week. At first the kidnappers demanded a million dollars (30 million Meticaís), much more than the family could raise. So the ransom was cut to 10 mn MT, then 5 mn MT. The family sold and mortgaged all they could and could only raise 1 mn MT (\$30,000), and the kidnappers agreed to accept that. But then the police were told.

## **Bank staff help kidnappers and other kidnap news**

Corrupt bank staff are giving kidnappers information about the money in people's bank accounts, police spokesman Pedro Cossa said yesterday. (Noticias 30 October)

Other news:

- O Pais today reports that there were 10 kidnappings last week.
- A kidnap victim escaped Saturday. The woman was kidnapped Thursday from in front of her ice-making factory in the Malanga neighbourhood of Maputo. She was held in a house in Bunhica, Matola. and escaped when the kidnappers allowed her to take a bath. She scaled a wall and ran to the next house, where the owners contacted the police. They raided the Bunhica house, but by then the kidnappers had fled, leaving behind two AK-47 assault rifles; the police arrested three other people in the house.
- The head of the Criminal Investigation Police in Maputo has been sacked after just 20 months in post. Interior Minister Alberto Mondlane assured a press conference yesterday that the change had nothing to do with the wave of kidnappings. His replacement Eúgenio Balane has a good investigative record and is from outside Maputo. O Pais notes that Balane broke up a ring that stole \$5 million for the state in Pemba and also reduced illegal timber trading.

## **6 jailed for 16 years**

Three policemen (including a member of the elite presidential guard) and three others were each sentenced to 16 years in jail for kidnapping six people in 2011 and 2012. Two other trials are still under way in Maputo and Matola.

Ransoms paid for three of them were revealed in court: \$165,000, \$160,000, and \$130,000.

The prosecution said that Bendene Chissano (known as “the Angolan”) led the gang, but was acting on the instructions of others. AIM reports that the man suspected of ordering the kidnappings is fugitive businessman Bakhir Ayoob. He was arrested in September 2012 in connection with the kidnappings, but a magistrate claimed the police had not provided enough evidence to hold him, and so ordered his release. A few days later, new arrest warrants were issued against Ayoob, accusing him of kidnapping and the murder of Momad Jassat, owner of the Expresso Cambios foreign exchange bureau, who was shot dead in Maputo in June 2012. By then, Ayoob had fled the country.

Most of those kidnapped so far have been Asian-origin Mozambicans, and at least initially, it appeared that the kidnappings were also being organised by Asian Mozambicans.

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### **The new book**

## **Zimbabwe takes back its land**

by Joseph Hanlon, Jeanette Manjengwa & Teresa Smart is now available from the publishers

[https://www.rienner.com/title/Zimbabwe\\_Takes\\_Back\\_Its\\_Land](https://www.rienner.com/title/Zimbabwe_Takes_Back_Its_Land)

<http://www.jacana.co.za/book-categories/current-affairs-a-history/zimbabwe-takes-back-its-land-detail>

### **Now in paper at a reasonable price**

## **Do bicycles equal development in Mozambique?**

by Joseph Hanlon & Teresa Smart

is now available in **paperback**, for £17.99 (+ p&p)  
from the publisher <http://www.boydellandbrewer.com/store/viewItem.asp?idProduct=13503>  
and on Amazon.co.uk for £17.09

## **Just Give Money to the Poor: The Development Revolution from the Global South**

by Joseph Hanlon, Armando Barrientos, and David Hulme

Most of this book can now be **read on the web**

[tinyurl.com/justgivemoney](http://tinyurl.com/justgivemoney)

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**Also on the web:** Previous newsletters and other Mozambique material are posted on  
[tinyurl.com/mozamb](http://tinyurl.com/mozamb)

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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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**Mozambique media websites:**

Noticias: [www.jornalnoticias.co.mz](http://www.jornalnoticias.co.mz)

O Pais: [www.opais.co.mz](http://www.opais.co.mz)

Macauhub English: [www.macauhub.com.mo/en/](http://www.macauhub.com.mo/en/)

Savana: [www.savana.co.mz](http://www.savana.co.mz)

Canal de Moçambique: [www.canalmoz.co.mz](http://www.canalmoz.co.mz)

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

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

Good daily newsletters:

English: Mozambique Investor. Send e-mail to [joaquim.fale@clubofmozambique.com](mailto:joaquim.fale@clubofmozambique.com)

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