

MOZAMBIQUE News reports & clippings

623 22 March 2023 Editor: Joseph Hanlon (j.hanlon@open.ac.uk)

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This is a personal project by Dr Joseph Hanlon, with no outside funding.

Police say NGOs, party leaders and media joined youth to promote violence

Interventions to block young people joining the funeral cortege of the rapper Azagaia on Tuesday 14 July and peaceful processions in his honour in provincial capitals on Saturday (18 March) were required to prevent violence, police national deputy commander Fernando Tsucana said today. He explained that "several letters appeared on social networks calling for the march all over the country [on 18 March] supposedly in tribute to the musician. The organizers and/or promoters of these events were not musicians, but individuals linked to political parties, Civil Society Organizations and Non-Governmental Organizations. The Police of the Republic of Mozambique, noting the existence of strong indications of transition from peaceful to violent demonstration, decided to take preventive police measures."

He "noted with great concern that the leadership of the demonstrators were figures with political connections and Civil Society Organisations" who he named as activists Quitéria Guirengane and Fátima Mbire and opposition party leaders Venâncio Mondlane, Manuel de Araújo, Augusto Pelembe and Alberto Carige.

Tsucana said "on A Tua TV Channel there were recurrent calls for the assault of the Presidency of the Republic with the intention of carrying out a coup d'état and consequent change of the governance of Mozambique, using the slogan 'Povo no Poder' thus contradicting the principle of Democratic Rule of Law that advocates the election of the President of the Republic through universal suffrage."

[Povo no Poder](#) (People in Power) is the title of Azagaia's most famous rap. The police never liked that rap and in 2008 the Attorney-General's Office (PGR) summoned Azagaia for questioning because "Povo no Poder" was supposedly fomenting riots.

TV Sucesso, one of the most watched TV channels, had a series of debates about popular uprisings, Tsucana noted.

The use of force was "proportionate" and necessary to "disperse the masses", he said. Tsucana did not mention that that mayors had authorised several of the homage processions which were attacked by the police. He added the 36 people were arrested (20 in Maputo, 3 in Nampula, 7 in Chimoio, and 6 in Beira) and 14 were injured of whom one remains hospitalised. The statement (in Portuguese) is in [text](#) and on [video](#).

Comment

Squeeze on civil society, parties and media?

The deputy police commander's view that civil society and political parties are not legitimate participants in a peaceful march, and are, indeed, dangerous, underlines the defacto police ban on

any demonstration not in support of Frelimo. And it comes at a time when there is a growing campaign against civil society.

President Filipe Nyusi, speaking as head of the ruling Frelimo Party, on 16 March told a meeting of the Frelimo disciplinary body, the Verification Commission, that there are forces and organisations that, under the guise of supporting communities, seek to undermine Frelimo and the government. And Agriculture Minister Celso Correia, a possible presidential candidate, last week called FDC, the respected NGO headed by Mozambique's first former First Lady Graça Machel, part of an "industry of misery and poverty".

A bill in parliament would sharply tighten restrictions on civil society organisations. As a supposed part of money laundering legislation, government would gain the right not just to inspect the books of organisations, but to decide if spending was proper.

And the deputy commissioner's criticisms of the content of media comes at a time when parliament is considering much tighter restrictions on media, including licensing of journalists.

It does seem that some in the Frelimo are feeling increasingly insecure and worried about disenfranchised and unemployed youth. And tributes to Azagaia became a focus for youth mobilising across the country, not just in Maputo.

History does not repeat, but some in the elite seem to fear that a spark could set off serious youth action leading to something like the 2011-12 Arab spring, and tighter control is needed. *jh*

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Elections

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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 data: <http://bit.ly/MozEIData>

Important external links

Books by Joseph Hanlon can be downloaded, free: <https://bit.ly/HanlonBooks>

Flood, cyclone and weather: weather <https://www.inam.gov.mz/>

rainfall https://www.inam.gov.mz/images/DAPT_Previsoes/Manha/Previsao_Manha.pdf

Daily flood and monthly dry season reports - <https://bit.ly/Moz-Flood-2023>

Cyclone trackers, <https://bit.ly/Reunion-cyclone>, <https://www.metoc.navy.mil/jtwc/jtwc.html>

(which uses z time which is UCT - Coordinated Universal Time) and <https://www.cyclocane.com/>

Two LSE working papers - World Bank questions its Mozambique 'success' where oligarchs brought high inequality, poverty and corruption - <https://bit.ly/Moz-LSE-208c> and **How the IMF and World Bank caused a resource curse and civil war in Mozambique** - <https://bit.ly/Moz-LSE-209>

Minimum wage & exchange rate charts, tables 1996-2022 <https://bit.ly/MozMinWage2022>

Previous editions of this newsletter: <https://bit.ly/MozNews2023> and <https://bit.ly/MozNews2022>

My Mozambique archive: <http://bit.ly/Mozamb>

TSU_Tabela-Salarial-Unica - law, decrees, points system (2 Mb) <https://bit.ly/Moz-TSU>

Cabo Delgado

Cabo Ligado weekly report on civil war <https://www.cabolidado.com/>

Archive with reports, detailed maps, and census data <https://bit.ly/Moz-CDg>

Special reports on the war

Evolution of the war: global vs local. 27 Feb 2020 <http://bit.ly/CDelgadoOrigins>

Religion is shaping Cabo Delgado civil war. 30 April 2020 <https://bit.ly/CDelgadoReligion>
Intensifying argument over roots of war. 28 June 2020 <https://bit.ly/Moz-492>
Are the drums of war silencing any hope of peace? 26 July 2020 <http://bit.ly/Moz-496>
A history of violence presages the insurgency. 13 August 2020 <http://bit.ly/Moz-498>
Military & economic intervention. 3 Sept 2020 <https://bit.ly/CDelgadoIntervene>
Cabo-Delgado-Free-for-all. 20 Apr 2022. <https://bit.ly/Moz-593>

Mozambique heroin transit trade

English - LSE - 2018 - <http://bit.ly/Moz-heroin>
Portuguese - CIP- 2018 - <http://bit.ly/HeroinaPT>
2001 first article- *Metical* - English and Portuguese <https://bit.ly/MozHeroin2001>

Gas for development?

Gas_for_development_or_just_for_money?_2015 <bit.ly/MozGasEng>
Gás_para_desenvolvimento_ou_apenas_dinheiro?_2015 <bit.ly/MozGasPt>

Background reading

Special reports

Social protection report - 2017 Mozambique - <http://bit.ly/MozSocPro>
Special report on four poverty surveys: <bit.ly/MozPoverty>

\$2bn secret debt - in English

Secret debt trial (Aug-Oct 2021) press reports <https://bit.ly/Moz-secret-debt>
Kroll - Full report on \$2bn debt - <http://bit.ly/Kroll-Moz>
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>
2018 Constitution - <http://bit.ly/2KF588T>

Eleven books by Joseph Hanlon can be downloaded, free: <https://bit.ly/HanlonBooks>

Zimbabwe takes back its land (2013) <https://bit.ly/Zim-takes-land>
Bangladesh confronts climate change (2016)
Chickens and beer: A recipe for agricultural growth in Mozambique (2014) is on <https://bit.ly/Chickens-Beer>
Há Mais Bicicletas – mas há desenvolvimento? (2008)
Civil War Civil Peace (2006): <https://bit.ly/Civil-War-Civil-Peace>
Moçambique e as grandes cheias de 2000 (2001)
Mozambique and the Great Flood of 2000 (2001)
Paz Sem Benefício: Como o FMI Bloqueia a Reconstrução (1997)
Peace Without Profit: How the IMF Blocks Rebuilding (1996) <https://bit.ly/Peace-wo-Profit>
Mozambique: Who Calls the Shots (1991) <https://bit.ly/Shots-Moz>
Mozambique: The Revolution Under Fire (1984)

These are still available for sale:

Galinhas e cerveja: uma receita para o crescimento (2014) (free in English)
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 (free): <http://clubofmozambique.com/>
Zitamar (paywall): <http://zitamar.com/>

Mozambique media websites, Portuguese (all with partial paywall):

Notícias: www.jornalnoticias.co.mz
O País: 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/> (some CDD in English)

Also CDD now controls Fórum de Monitoria do Orçamento - FMO (main debt group) <http://www.fmo.org.mz>
and RMDDH - Rede Moçambicana dos Defensores dos Direitos Humanos (a human rights group).
To subscribe to all CDD publications: <http://eepurl.com/gO9I6v> (English or Portuguese).

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