

# MOZAMBIQUE 164

## News reports & clippings

2 June 2010

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*In this issue:*

### **Mozambican drug 'kingpin' named**

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4 files attached: this newsletter in pdf:

- + US embassy statement
- + 2001 article on drug trade
- + US Treasury statement
- + President Obama statement

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

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## US names

# Mohamed Bachir Suleman as 'drug kingpin'

Mohamed Bachir Suleman (MBS), one of Mozambique's most prominent and wealthiest businessmen, was yesterday named as a "drug kingpin" by United States President Barack Obama. The designation makes it illegal for US citizens and business to conduct financial or commercial transactions with him or three of his businesses: Grupo MBS Limitada, Grupo MBS – Kayum Centre, and Maputo Shopping Centre.

A statement from the US embassy today states that non-US citizens employed by the embassy "are not prohibited from engaging in personal transactions (non-work related) with MBS and the companies listed. However, we strongly encourage all employees of the US Mission or any of its entities not to do business with Mohamed Bachir Suleman or any of his business interests."

The US Department of the Treasury yesterday stated that "Mohamed Bachir Suleman is a large-scale narcotics trafficker in Mozambique, and his network contributes to the growing trend of narcotics trafficking and related money laundering across southern Africa. ... Suleman leads a well-financed narcotics trafficking and money laundering network in Mozambique that is centered on his family-owned business conglomerate Grupo MBS Limitada." (statements attached)

MBS is close to Frelimo and last year *Savana* reported that he donated nearly \$1 million to the Frelimo electoral campaign. (article below)

Mozambique has been an important heroin transit and warehousing centre for more than a decade. Heroin is shipped from Pakistan to northern Mozambique, brought ashore in small boats, then warehoused (particularly in Nacala), and when orders are received shipped out in containers from Mozambican and South African ports. I first reported this in Metical nine years ago (article in English and Portuguese attached), but this was denied at the time by an international community anxious to support Mozambique as a "donor darling".

Since then, large buildings have been built in Maputo and Nampula by people who have no obvious legal source of that much income. Over the past decade there have been no heroin seizures and no public fights between groups of drug traders, which suggests that the heroin trade is tightly regulated by senior people in the government, police and military.

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Savana on-line 20 Outubro 2009

<http://www.savana.co.mz/na-ultima-pagina/1799?start=1>

### **MBS na campanha da Frelimo**

Apoiante confesso do partido no poder, Mahomed Bachir não pára de surpreender com os seus apoios à Frelimo. Depois de oferecer 50 mil dólares na última reunião de quadros da Frelimo, o grupo MBS voltou a disponibilizar 800 mil dólares norte-americanos para o apoio à campanha da Frelimo e do seu candidato.

Além do valor acima referido, o MBS responsabilizou-se pela colocação de reclames luminosos e painéis publi-citários da Frelimo e de Armando Guebuza em todas as vias públicas da cidade e província de Maputo, incluindo um mega painel luminoso com a figura de Guebuza colocado nas instalações do Maputo Shopping Centre.

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

by Joseph Hanlon & Teresa Smart

**is only available direct from the publisher**

[www.jamescurrey.co.uk](http://www.jamescurrey.co.uk)

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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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### **Mozambique media websites:**

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

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

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

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

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

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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  
This mailing is the personal responsibility of Joseph Hanlon, and does not necessarily represent the views of the Open University.

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