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Mocimboa da praia



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The deterioration of the political situation in Cabo Delgado, and the ensuing worsening of the humanitarian crisis, has been the hallmarks of December and a sad reminiscent of a year gone from bad to worse. In the central region, the conflict has shown signs of de-escalation and with signs of pacification trends. After various appeals to dialogue, Mariano Nhongo, the leader of the Renamo Military Junta approached the Contact Group and manifest his willingness to negotiate with the Head of the State.

The severity of traffic accidents continues to show how much the state and society disregard human lives and livelihood. By considering traffic accidents to be caused by individual recklessness (either drivers' or pedestrian behavior), the state and the society in general shove-off their responsibility and fail to see the truly pandemic dimensions of the issue.

This analysis is organized in different categories and shows how violence unfolds in Mozambique. Violence seems to be more than a ritual practice among political actors fighting for power, being increasingly used as an instrument for production and reproduction of social, and economic relations (and even for survival). It is CEPCB's perception that this constancy of violence might be blocking the possibility of creating discursive spaces and practical measures to promote peace in the country. The full document with all the news clips can be accessed at:

<https://cepcb.org.mz/category/conflict-weekly/>

Context

In this analysis, the news pieces are separated into different categories of violence: political, social, police brutality, gender and crime. We have also inserted news on structural aspects of violence in categories such as discrimination, marginalization, peace, dialogue and reconciliation. At a later stage, ritual crimes were also inserted in a separate category. This collection allows a more robust analysis of the violence in Mozambique, and helps to identify trends in how violence is perceived in order to boost the efforts to mitigate, and eventually, end violence. Even if the different kinds of violence seem different in their manifestations, as a human act they are, in our view, all related to the way individuals and human groups value life - the violation of political and individual rights are a common denominator in all kinds of violence.

Monthly Highlights - December

The deterioration of the political situation in Cabo Delgado, and the ensuing worsening of the humanitarian crisis, has been the hallmarks of December and a sad reminiscent of a year gone from bad to worse. In the central region, the conflict has shown signs of de-escalation and with signs of pacification trends. After various appeals to dialogue, Mariano Nhongo, the leader of the Renamo Military Junta approached the Contact Group and manifest his willingness to negotiate with the Head of the State, Filipe Jacinto Nyusi. The month had started however in the central region with military incidents. The Junta attacked a public institution car, under the argument that it served military purposes, and the President announced the capture of three men he claimed to be close to Mariano Nhongo. In a set-back for the Junta, its spokesperson, João Machava, has abandoned the Junta and joined the DDR becoming with this move one of the 197 former Renamo guerrillas to have gone through the DDR in the month of December.

The public dimension of traffic accidents continues to be shoved underneath the mattress. Despite the outcries against the atrocities committed by terrorists and the attacks by the Junta, the severity of traffic accidents continues to show how much the state and the society disregards human lives and livelihoods in our daily lives. By considering traffic accidents to be caused by individual recklessness (either drivers' or pedestrian behavior), the state and the society in general shove off their responsibility and fail to see the truly pandemic dimensions of the issue. In December, we can highlight the accident in Beira that killed 13 citizens and left 5 injured, one in a serious condition. A hit and run in the Zimpeto neighborhood in Maputo left one pedestrian dead. The social constructs that justify driving against pedestrians with impunity, the lack of crossings and of sidewalks in public roads, and the damage cars suffers from bad infrastructure and deficient maintenance continue to be ignored by the state. The tragic costs of accidents, fatal or not, in livelihoods, is treated nonchalantly by public officials. How much ate the costs for society when a family loses a father, or a breadwinner? What are the traumas of losing a child? How to survive after being maimed in a traffic accident? How does one lives a normal life after killing or maiming someone in a car accident? The number of family and individual lives destroyed

by deaths and maiming in traffic accidents makes traffic accidents a pandemic of sorts in Mozambique.

During the month of December, we have identified 390 news pieces related to violence in the country. Of those, 214 are related to political violence, 61 to crime, 27 to traffic accidents, 22 connected to reconciliation, 19 to social violence, 16 to gender-based violence, 13 on the category of dialogue, and 9 for both peace and police brutality.

The category of **political violence** with its 214 news pieces is dominated by the province of Cabo Delgado, with the districts of Nangade, Muidumbe, Mocimboa da Praia, Macomia and Mueda as the focus of the violence. The degree of intensification of the armed violence, and the apparent failure of the Mozambican state to resolve the conflict has come into sharp relief. A study revealed that Mozambique has the second highest number of terrorism-related deaths and the biggest increase in terrorist activities in sub-Saharan Africa. Given the failure of the state in stopping the violence that has led to the loss of human life, different countries such as Portugal, the United States of America, Spain, among others, have volunteered to help in the fight against the armed violence in the country.

There were 22 news pieces connected to **reconciliation**. December saw the closure of the Renamo military base in Mabote and 170 fighters returning to civilian life. In the DDR process underway, while some feel happy for the opportunity to return to civilian life, others feel excluded and forgotten in the process, such as the Renamo ex-fighters that are stationed in the Catine base in Homoine district.

Dialogue has fetched 13 news pieces in December. This is a positive trend, if we consider dialogue to be a key tool for the achievement of an effective peace. December was marked by the announcement of the cessation of hostilities in the central region by Mariano Nhongo, the leader of the Renamo Military Junta, paving the way for a meeting with the President of the Republic, Filipe Nyusi.

In its turn, **gender-based violence** has 16 references in the news, with the highlines going to child marriage, rape, and domestic violence. The telecoms company Tmcel and UN Women have launched a joint campaign to promote women empowerment in the workplace, in the markets and in the general community.

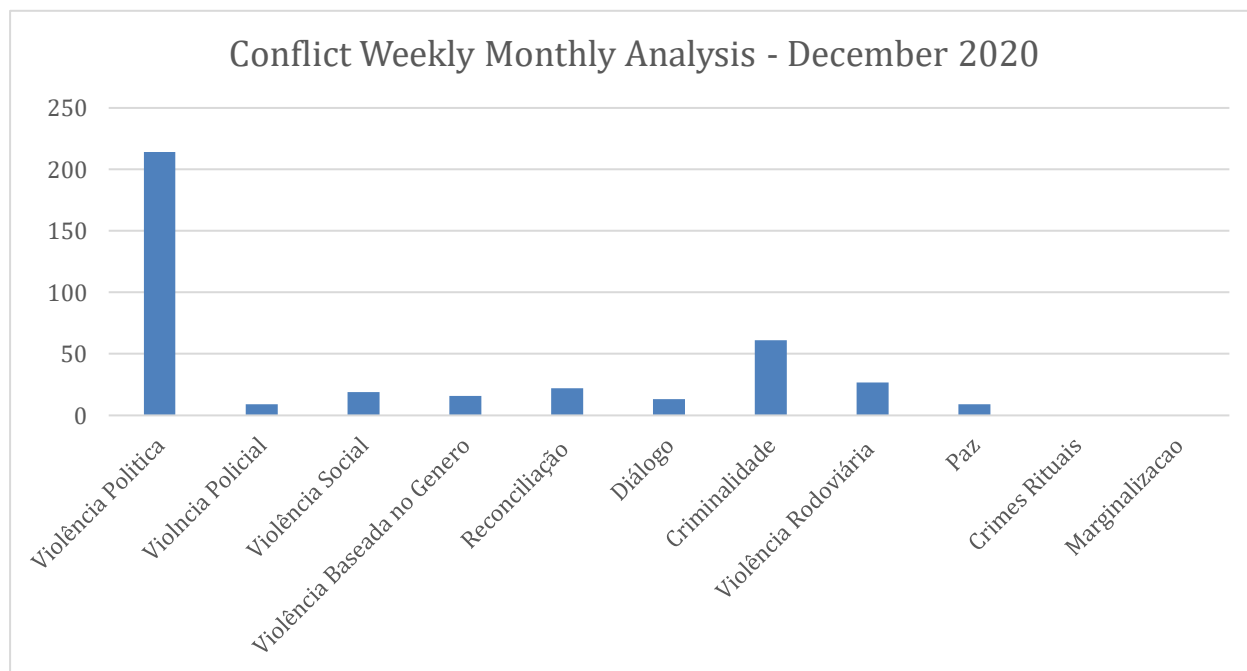
There were reports of 19 cases of **social violence**. A husband killed his wife, and there were reports of popular justice through lynch mobs, some successful and other not.

Police brutality fielded 09 cases. Amidst the armed conflict in the central and northern regions of the country, citizens complain of aggression, kidnaps, and battering by agents of the defense and security forces. The sad apex of this violence was the gunning down of a young man by the police for drinking in the street in the Mavalane neighborhood in Maputo City. This act left residents in the area aghast with the police, further deteriorating the already strained civilian-police relations.

Traffic accidents take sometimes a heavier toll on human lives than political violence. During the month, we collected 27 news related to this category, and the highlight goes to Beira, where a tragic accident left 13 people dead and 5 injured. According to the sources, of the various

accidents reported, the most common causes are high speed and irregular crossing by pedestrians.

Throughout the month, 61 instances connected to **crime** have been identified, amongst them kidnaps, assault, theft, and extorsions. The kidnappings, that target businessmen or women and their next to kin, has led President Nyusi to announce the creation of specialized unit focused on the issue.



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The CEPCB brings weekly to citizens, politicians, and other decision-makers in the civil, community, and state fields, an analysis of violence in the country. This analysis shows how violence unfolds, and is organised into specific analytical categories. Violence in Mozambique *appears not only to be a common practice among political actors in the struggle for power, but also an instrument of production and reproduction of social, economic, and even individual survival relationships*. It is CEPCB's perception that the constancy of "violence" may be blocking the capacity to build a society of peace and prosperity. The different manifestations of violence seem to be intersecting and creating a rationality that builds the **citizen as a political subject product of violence** in Mozambique, and also builds **violence as an act of citizenship**.