

# MOZAMBIQUE

## TWICE MONTHLY THREAT & STABILITY ASSESSMENT

Mozambique MEA Risk Index  
**RISK LEVEL**



1.88

### HIGHLIGHTS

Politics/Social  
Economic Issues  
Security Issues

- ❖ The past fortnight was relatively quiet, judging by the low number of recorded incidents. For the period of 1 to 15 November 2016, there were only 29 critical incidents in Mozambique, resulting in three deaths, 49 wounded, and four arrests. Criminality accounted for the largest share of total incidents, settling at 31%, followed by the human and social category at 27.59%. Terrorism represented 24.14% of total incident pool.
- ❖ Tension between RENAMO and the government remained high over the past fortnight, as the two started a new round of talks. There has been a pattern of attacks on political figures—mainly against RENAMO leaders, in incidents that are often blamed either directly on government security services or on death squads allegedly covertly linked to the government. In this context, the blame game continues in which RENAMO members point the finger at the government for being responsible for these attacks.
- ❖ Opposing RENAMO, the Mozambican war veterans, tied to the FRELIMO ruling party, also blame RENAMO for creating 'death squads' as a means to target and kill politicians.
- ❖ On the security front, politicians have been targeted and either attacked or killed.
- ❖ A senior RENAMO leader was assassinated in Sofala province making it the eighth case of a RENAMO member killed. In addition, a RENAMO leader in Zambezia was shot and wounded followed by a RENAMO militant was attacked in Mocuba. A kidnapping attempt was made to a local MDM opposition party leader, the political activities of the RENAMO

in Inhambane have come to a halt due to the escalating tension in the province.

- ❖ On the economic front, there has been a broad increase in general prices, including healthcare, water, and food, as a response to the ongoing financial crisis affecting Mozambique head on. In the business sector, a second-tier, private bank has been forced to shut down due to its failure to comply with the Central Bank's provisions. The bank ran into problems including liquidity and capitalization issues.
- ❖ On the criminality front, a local newspaper and radio station were raided and vandalized, while Maputo witnessed two kidnapping incidents, one of which succeeded, while the other failed.
- ❖ On the human and social front Maputo in particular has been facing adverse weather conditions with a hail storm destroying hundreds of homes, public schools, and businesses.

## Contents

Highlights .....	1
Political Affairs .....	6
Highlights .....	6
RENAMO continues to blame government of killings opposition figures.....	6
Pro-FRELIMO war veteran association accuses RENAMO of organizing death squads .....	6
Human & Social Issues .....	7
Weekend of severe weather in Maputo .....	7
Storm hits Caia District in Sofala, destroys hundreds of homes, injures many .....	7
Rising fees for Mozambique's health services .....	7
Deutsche Welle Africa correspondent detained in Sofala for defamation against police .....	8
Mozambican schools face instability amid political violence .....	8
Teachers complain of not receiving salaries in two months .....	8
Crocodile attack in a Tete river leaves at least one dead, three children missing .....	8
Market with hundreds of stalls destroyed in fire in Nampula .....	8
Economy & Business .....	9
Widespread price increase, including water.....	9
Growing fuel smuggling from Mozambique to Zimbabwe.....	9
Central Bank orders O Nosso Banco to shut down .....	9
Security.....	10
Killing of a politician in Sofala, 8th assassination of a senior RENAMO figure this year.....	10
Zambezia RENAMO official shot and wounded .....	10
Terror prompts RENAMO politicians in Inhambane to freeze activity .....	10
RENAMO militant attacked in Mocuba.....	10
Train attacked by suspected RENAMO militants in Malema.....	11
RENAMO's offices in Nampula attacked.....	11
Kidnapping attempt on local leader of opposition party MDM .....	11
Wood company in Sofala owned by RENAMO chief attacked .....	11
Criminality .....	12
Fishing boat attacked and looted.....	12
Inmate involved in assassination of senior prosecutor escapes prison .....	12

Rapist arrested on charges of assaulting nine children ..... 12

Independent media outlets attacked in Moatize ..... 12

One dead in an attempt robbery in Chimoio ..... 13

Mall owner escapes kidnapping ..... 13

Businessman abducted in Maputo..... 13

Teenagers arrested for criminal activity in Maputo City ..... 13

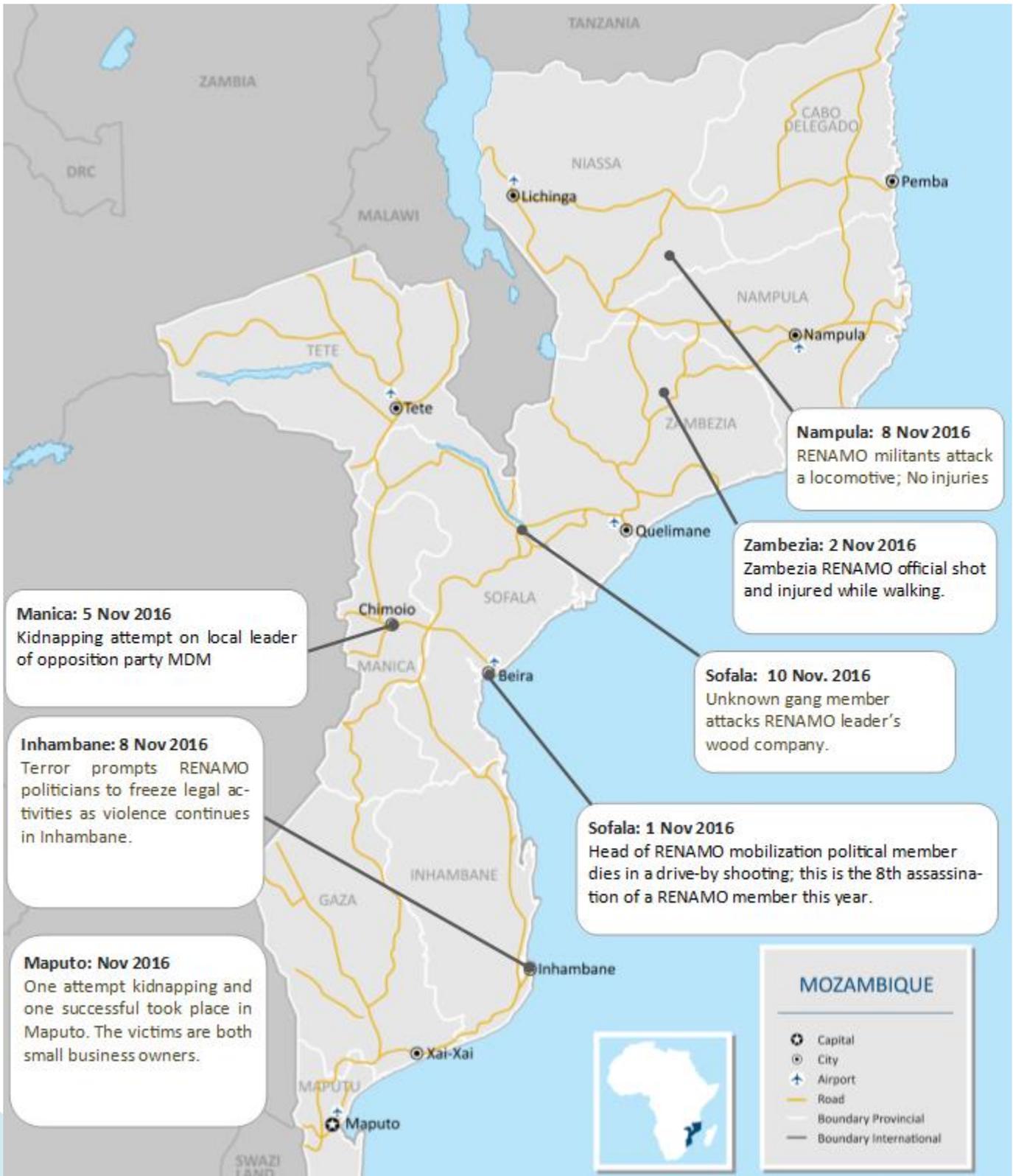
About MEA Risk LLC ..... 15

Copyright Notice and Disclaimer..... 15

..... 16

# Major critical Incidents in Mozambique

For the period of 1-15 November 2016. Source: MEA Risk's Critical Incidents Tracker



# REVIEW

## POLITICAL AFFAIRS

### Highlights

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Political life in Mozambique over the past fortnight was dominated by secret negotiations between the government and the RENAMO opposition movement. The talks are being kept mostly confidential so as to not create added tension and avoid the broader public debate that could derail the outcome. As of 15 November, the mediators submitted a proposal to both parties on the thorny issue of decentralization. The undisclosed proposal aims at resolving the issue of governance, as RENAMO insists that it must govern the six provinces it alleges it won in 2014. Sources say the decentralization initiative requires a constitutional revision, amendments to the laws of provincial assemblies and bases of the organization and functioning of the public administration, as well as a proposed provincial finance law. As the parties are analyzing these proposals, the following took place in Mozambique over the past two weeks:

### RENAMO continues to blame government of killings opposition figures

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The blame game continues in Mozambique as both RENAMO and the government face a stalemate in their peace talks. RENAMO has been insisting that the government has been financially backing anti-RENAMO activity, claiming that about a hundred members have been killed and about 250 are missing. "Members of RENAMO who have lost their lives number about 100, but we have many others –

as many as 250 – who have disappeared," RENAMO spokesman Antonio Muchanga told a press conference called to announce the non-fatal shooting of a party member in Mocuba district, Zambezia province. "Unfortunately, there is no will to do anything [to stop the murders], which are financed by the state, of course, because if that were not so, they would not have become so widespread," Muchanga said. Muchanga said the attacks on party members were aimed at forcing the party to abandon the ongoing dialog with the government about political and military violence.

### Pro-FRELIMO war veteran association accuses RENAMO of organizing death squads

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The liberation war veterans' association ACLLN says RENAMO created death squads to murder politicians and citizens. ACLLN, is a component of the FRELIMO ruling party. ACLLN also rebuked the RENAMO parliamentary bench for using the Assembly of the Republic as a pulpit for "cheap propaganda", with party bench head Ivone Soares baselessly accusing the government of creating death squads. ACLLN says RENAMO was "very unfortunate" in its accusations, as all Mozambicans know who the illegal holder of weapons is, and who it is that persecutes defenceless citizens, assails villages and loots the population's assets, breaks into hospitals and steals drugs, mutilating people and destroying socio-economic infrastructure; seeking at all costs to

derail the Government's efforts to create well-being for all.

Adding that "we consider the allegations of Ivone Soares ridiculous and baseless. We warn RENAMO that the people are not distracted. "

## HUMAN & SOCIAL ISSUES

### Weekend of severe weather in Maputo

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The province of Maputo, including the capital city Maputo witnessed severe weather over the weekend of Saturday 12 November and Sunday 13 November. Heavy rain, strong winds and violent thunderstorms hit the region, affecting some of the key infrastructure and disrupting service delivery for electricity.

The bad weather was the result of a cold front, which preceded by a low pressure system. The weather system of this past weekend saw above-normal rains exceeding 50 mm, accompanied by severe thunderstorms and wind gusting up to 60 km/h. Weather forecasters are predicting showers and strong winds along the coastal strip of Gaza and Inhambane, Manica province, Tete and the Zambezi valley over the coming days.

### Storm hits Caia District in Sofala, destroys hundreds of homes, injures many

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A hail storm hit many Sofala sub-regions, with the District of Caia hit the hardest on 7 November. The storm destroyed nearly 400 houses and degraded as many as 115, wrecking havoc on the region. Health authorities say 40 people sustained injury, many

ended up hospitalized. Authorities also report that public infrastructure such as schools and private business sites were hit hard by the gale, which knocked down nine electricity posts, leaving the village of Caia in the dark.

### Rising fees for Mozambique's health services

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The economic crisis affecting Mozambique has extended to the healthcare sector where consultations and admission fees have been increasing. For example Maputo Central Hospital Clinic increased its general admission fee from MZM 4,500 to MZM 5,500. Basic consultations rose from MZM 825 to MZM 1,500, an increase of MZM 675 meticals. The prices are set by the government, and according to the new price list, a control consultation will cost MZM 1,500, while an appointment with a private doctor will cost MZM 10,000.

## Deutsche Welle Africa correspondent detained in Sofala for defamation against police

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Arcenio Sebastiao, a DW Africa correspondent based in Beira, Mozambique, has been incarcerated in Dondo district, Sofala since 10 October 2016. The journalist is accused of libel and defamation against a police officer. The Southern African Media Institute in Mozambique (MISA), a non-governmental organization that promotes press freedom and freedom of expression, says that this is the first time someone has been detained in the country on charges of defamation and has remained in prison.

## Mozambican schools face instability amid political violence

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Some 20,000 students in central and northern Mozambique will miss their year-end school exams as political violence escalates. The situation is forcing education authorities to relocate many students to schools considered as safer. They also requested that tests are administered in advance on 14 November, specifically for 2nd and 5th graders and for students attending adult education classes. Seventh, 10th and 12th grade examinations will start on 28 November.

## Teachers complain of not receiving salaries in two months

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Around 100 teachers working in the province of Inhambane's primary and secondary school system say they have not received their salaries in over two months. The education ministry, which is responsible for salaries, did not make any comment on the matter. As a result, teachers in some schools have stopped going to class, except to give the final tests" according to the press.

Tests are administered in advance on 14 November, specifically for 2nd and 5th graders and for students attending adult education classes. Seventh, 10th and 12th grade examinations will start on 28 November.

## Crocodile attack in a Tete river leaves at least one dead, three children missing

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A 10-year-old boy died when he was attacked by a crocodile on the banks of the Zambezi River in Tete province on 6 November 2016. Three children are still missing after disappearing while swimming. The victim was attacked by a crocodile while bathing in an area that known for its crocodile population.

## Market with hundreds of stalls destroyed in fire in Nampula

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A fire destroyed at least 500 stalls on 8 November in a Nampula African city market. The stalls are said to be operated by migrants from other African nations. The fire was ignited by sub-standard electrical equipment, which caused a short circuit.

# ECONOMY & BUSINESS

## Widespread price increase, including water

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Mozambican households and businesses are seeing a sudden and unannounced increase in basic products and commodity prices. This includes food, medicine, electricity, and fuel and even drinking water. For water, the most affected districts are Maputo, Matola, Boane, Xai-Xai, Chókwè, Inhambane, Chimoio, Manica, Gondola, Tete and Moatize who saw their water supply service fees rose by 20%.

Although the broad state of the economy, a shortage of foreign currency and a severe depreciation of the metical are to blame for the broad increases, sources in Maputo specify that the cost increase for water is due to cost of the chemicals that are used in the water treatment process. Another cost is electricity, which is used for the pumps that draw in, treat and distribute water to consumers' homes, and which has also risen by about 30%.

## Growing fuel smuggling from Mozambique to Zimbabwe

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The devaluation of the Mozambican currency the metical is creating the proper environment for fuel smuggling from Mozambique and into Zimbabwe. Most the smuggling activity is taking place in the Manica Province. Customs say the fuel is transported in 20-litre drums via the border village of Machipanda and Manica city, which are located a

short driving distance from Mutare, in Zimbabwe, where it feeds a dense network of illegal backyard filling stations. The media investigating this phenomenon says traders buy unleaded gasoline at 51.99 meticais (US\$0.69) a litre in Mozambique, and sell it in Zimbabwe on the informal market for between US\$0.80 and US\$1, while the official price at filling stations is US\$1.25. The end-users of the smuggled fuel include Zimbabwean taxi drivers and commercial bus owners. The fuel is usually smuggled by lorry or in the trunks of private cars into Zimbabwe by young Mozambicans who control the smuggling of various products across Mozambique longest land border.

## Central Bank orders O Nosso Banco to shut down

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After making some efforts to fix its problems through a restructuring that started in 2014, Mozambique's central bank finally forced on 11 November the dissolution and liquidation of O Nosso Banco, which is a second tier private commercial bank, with public institutions as its main shareholders, including the National Social Security Institute and the public utility firm EDM. Bank of Mozambique (BoM) says O Nosso Banco's prudential and profitability indicators have been on continuous decline, with sub-standard capitalization, and facing "serious liquidity and management problems". BoM says "not only did O Nosso Banco violate decisions of the central bank, but it also failed to re-establish balance to its financial situation." This is the second Mozambican bank to fail this year. On 30 September the Bank of

Mozambique intervened in the country's fifth largest commercial bank, Moza Banco, suspending its board of directors, and imposing a provisional board. Moza

Banco had run into problems of liquidity, and its shareholders were unable or unwilling to recapitalize the bank.

## SECURITY

### Killing of a politician in Sofala, 8th assassination of a senior RENAMO figure this year

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RENAMO's top political man in the Sofala Provincial Assembly, and RENAMO head of mobilisation in Beira Juma Ramos, was assassinated on 30 October 2016 at the informal stall he owned in the Beira neighborhood of Palmeiras II. He died on the spot. According to witnesses, two armed men emerged from a car and shot Juma at point blank range. This is the 8th assassination of a senior RENAMO figure this year.

### Zambezia RENAMO official shot and wounded

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The RENAMO deputy director of the Zambezia Election Secretariat (Secretariado Tecnico de Administracao Eleitoral, STAE), Abilio Baessa, was shot and seriously injured on 2 November as he walked near the police station in Mocuba. He is yet another RENAMO politician to be targeted for assassination.

### Terror prompts RENAMO politicians in Inhambane to freeze activity

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The political branch of RENAMO in Inhambane Province has brought its activities to a virtual halt following an escalation of violence that has targeted RENAMO members. RENAMO officials in the Province accuse the government of waging a campaign of assassination and kidnapping. Many RENAMO political militants in Inhambane have disappeared, with several missing since March 2016. Others, including senior member Aly Jane were murdered. RENAMO's legal political activities are now frozen in Inhambane as violence continues.

### RENAMO militant attacked in Mocuba

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A member of RENAMO was shot but survived the attack in Mocuba, Zambezia Province. The victim, Abilio Baesa is also a teacher and was on his way to work when he was suddenly riddled with bullets. The shots were fired by unidentified men who were being transported in a four-wheel drive vehicle without a registration plate. A Police spokesman confirmed the incident, but discarded any political connections.

## Train attacked by suspected RENAMO militants in Malema

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Nampula police spokesman Zacarias Nacute said RENAMO militants attacked a railway locomotive in Malema district in the Nacala logistics corridor, but that no-one was injured. The gunmen opened fire on a locomotive belonging to the Nacala Integrated Logistics Corridor in the Mutuali area.

## RENAMO's offices in Nampula attacked

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The RENAMO headquarters in Nampula was attacked by a unidentified gang on 8 November. The attackers set the offices ablaze to the facility that also doubles as a resident to a RENAMO official. RENAMO officials say they attackers intended to kill the people living in the building. No one was injured.

## Kidnapping attempt on local leader of opposition party MDM

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A local representative of the Democratic Movement of Mozambique (MDM) in Chimoio, Manica province, central Mozambique, was attacked and the target of

an abduction attempt. His daughter said that a group of 11 men arrived when her father, Inacio Pangaia, an MDM delegate for the Nhamadjessa neighborhood, was preparing to leave for church. "They hit him with a katana and he began to lose a lot of blood. Then they loaded him into the van and headed off towards the Chissui cemetery. But the vehicle broke down in front of the police station, and, fearing discovery, they abandoned him and fled," she said. Inacio Pangaia was found on Tuesday, 8 November 2016. The MDM's provincial political delegate in Manica confirmed the incident, noting that several members of the party have been abducted and tortured in the execution of a strategy he said was aimed at "silencing the opposition".

## Wood company in Sofala owned by RENAMO chief attacked

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CENO, the wood processing company owned by RENAMO chief Afonso Dhlakama, located in Caia, Sofala, was attacked by unidentified gang on 10 November. Police did not provide details of the attack but Dhlakama's businesses have been the target of attacks recently as political violence persists. The properties recently attacked include SOCADIV's worksite in Barué, Manica. Most of Afonso Dhlakama's companies involve the exploitation of natural resources.

# CRIMINALITY

## Fishing boat attacked and looted

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A criminal gang of eight men armed with guns and knives boarded a fishing vessel on Praia Nova beach to dock at the Port of Beira, injuring three Mozambican and two Spanish sailors and seizing half a ton of shrimp. The incident took place as the vessel was waiting for permission to dock at the fishing port of Beira. One of the wounded is the Spanish captain of the boat.

## Inmate involved in assassination of senior prosecutor escapes prison

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Abdul Tembe, the man who drove a car during the killing of Senior Prosecutor Marcelino Vilanculos in April 2016 escaped Maputo Central Prison, as Maputo dealt with a severe storm. Tembe was incarcerated in the Central Prison, in the suburb of Machava, apparently to protect him against the Prosecutor's killers who threatened to murder him. Antonio and Coutinho are still incarcerated at the Police Command.

## Rapist arrested on charges of assaulting nine children

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A man was arrested in Maputo on suspicion of sexually abusing nine male children. The case occurred in the Mafalala neighborhood, and is the second case in a month. The first took place in the George Dimitrov neighbourhood, better known as Benfica. According to one of the teenagers, the accused offered them money in exchange for his victims' silence. The boys say the suspect offered them money and food to entice them. The accused has pleaded not guilty, and claims that the charges against him are fabricated with the intention of tarnishing his image.

## Independent media outlets attacked in Moatize

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A newspaper and a radio station in Moatize, Tete province were raided and vandalized on 1 November 2016. The attackers stole all their equipment. Another radio station suffered an attempted robbery in the same district. The weekly newspaper Malacha was targeted, and had its computer equipment, digital recorders, a camera and the newspaper's digital archive dating back to 2011 stolen. The subsequent edition of the paper failed to go out when the editorial team was forced to rewrite the entire content into an old design template. Meanwhile, As for the radio station, unknown attackers stormed the station offices and stole computer equipment, microphones, a professional recorder and console, a digital camera and a motorcycle from the drafting office of Cateme's Community Radio, also in Moatize district. The targeted media outlets are known for their impartiality and for reporting on corruption and on the current political and military crisis. They all

reported on the issue of Mozambican refugees in Malawi earlier this year, which local authorities denied.

## One dead in an attempt robbery in Chimoio

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On 13 November, an attempt robbery in Chimoio, in Manica Province, ended up with a police intervention and a shooting that killed one of the two suspected thieves. The two thieves were caught red-handed as they raided a shop in Chimoio. The second suspect suffered serious gunshot wounds and is being treated in the Manica Provincial Hospital in Chimoio. While stealing merchandise in the targeted store, their break-in set off an alarm at the home of the owner, who contacted the police.

## Mall owner escapes kidnapping

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The owner of the Tiger Center mall, a businessman of Asia origin, escaped a kidnapping in the city of Maputo on 14 November. A gang disguised as police officers attempted to abduct the businessman after work in the evening, while reaching his residence on Kenneth Kaunda Avenue in Maputo city.

## Businessman abducted in Maputo

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A Maputo-based businessman who owns a jewelry business was abducted on 15 November in the Sommershield neighborhood of Maputo. Five individuals armed with AKM-type firearms kidnapped.

## Teenagers arrested for criminal activity in Maputo City

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Two teenagers accused of carrying out assaults using forceful objects in the outskirts of the Mozambican capital, Maputo, were arrested on 14 November. The pair used machetes and bayonets to terrorize residents and steal their belongings. The police say the two are members of a bigger gang and are expected to help police find the remaining gang members.

# THE WEEKS AHEAD

## Political/Security

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The past fortnight resulted in no visible gains on the political front, specific to the ongoing peace talks. However, in the Mozambican context, this apparent lack of progress may bode well and can indeed be indicative of the two parties beginning to find some common ground.

Looking ahead, we anticipate some possible end to the political stalemate, with the two sides and their international mediators announcing some agreement, even if symbolic.

On the security front, the tit-for-tat confrontation between RENAMO and the government will continue until a political agreement forces a ceasefire and push the two reduce tension in the center of the country.

## Social/Human

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As expected, the government of Mozambique rolled out a series of price increases for a wide range of products, from energy to basic commodities. The population is expected to witness further price increases. Although they may accept to absorb those increases for the time being, the government will be

watching to spot any substantial change in the public response.

We anticipate that the government will likely push for more increases, in line with the weakening domestic currency, and a reduction in foreign currency availability in the country.

Meanwhile, many in the Mozambique population will remain vulnerable to the general environment as we expect the severe weather to lead to more displaced families.

## Economy

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This past fortnight's increase in food and commodity prices, include fuel and water, are indicative of Mozambique gradually disengaging the state from many segments of the country's economy. This is also an effort to roll out an austerity program aimed at reducing government spending amid a severe erosion in the value of the domestic currency, the metical. Going forward, this trends of increasing prices will be maintained over the coming weeks, pushing inflation to high levels. The country will continue to look for ways to also disengage from unprofitable businesses.

## About MEA Risk LLC

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MEA Risk is a threat and stability assessment company that offers research, tracking, rating and alerting services, and well custom consulting services to clients operating or interested in North Africa, the Sahel, Sub-Saharan Africa, and the broad Middle East. Today, we are providing services on the Maghreb, the Sahel, Egypt, East Africa, Turkey, Nigeria and Mozambique. We are expanding to include Saudi Arabia, Iran over the coming months, and we will expand to other regions in 2017. We are building a brand new infrastructure, both human and material, including technological to offer tremendous choices to clients.

What we track, rate and notify our clients on is the ability of the nations to remain stable, and by extension providing information to organizations and individuals to secure their presence and protect their assets in the regions that we track. This is not only in terms of using traditional metrics such as financial and macro-economic data, but we also take into account human, social, and political factors that have often been neglected, to strengthen our coverage of security and defense issues.

Our core product is Critical Incidents Tracker, a rich database of incidents that feed into and contribute to our analyses, and used to broadcast alerts. Our peripheral products are the free TripFence Mobile application and the upcoming Premium Shield & Alert Mobile. Both are available via Google and Apple stores.

To know more about us, visit <http://www.MEA-Risk.com> or call us in the US at 508-981-6937

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