



# PLSO MOZAMBIQUE

## Weekly Update

**Reporting Period:**  
**15 – 21 November 2024**

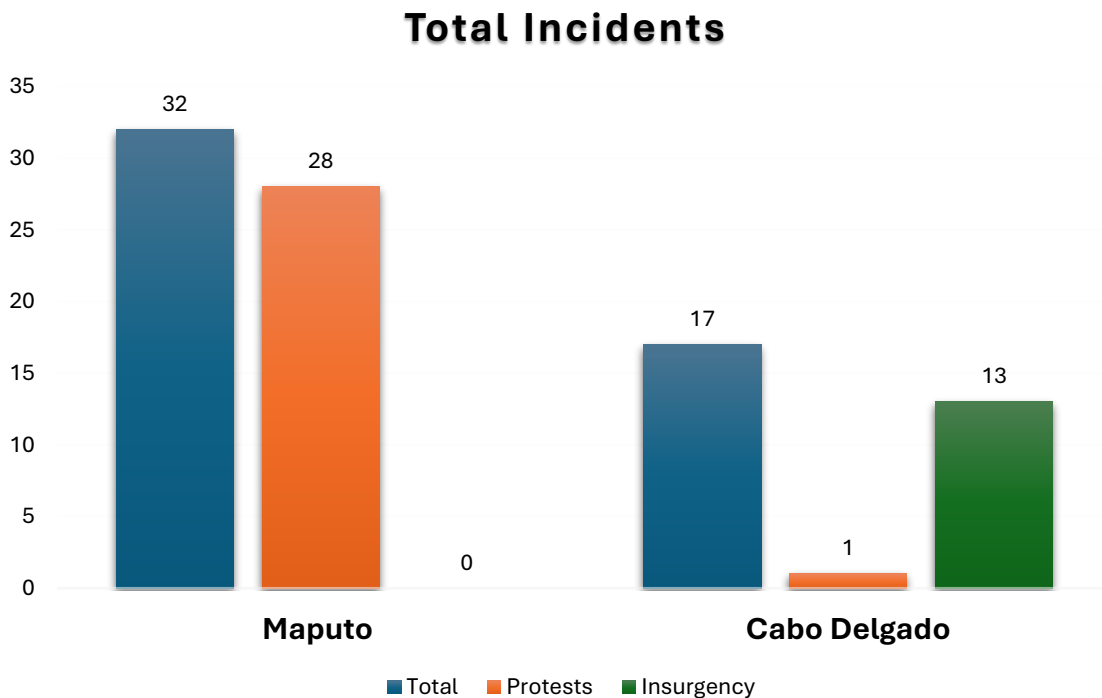


We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the Implementing Partners who were exceptionally active in our WhatsApp Groups this week. Your efforts in sharing safety and security information have played a vital role in keeping our community and colleagues safe. Your contributions have significantly enriched this week's report, and we truly appreciate your commitment and collaboration.

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This week, Mozambique continued to face dual crises of political unrest and security instability, with Maputo and Cabo Delgado remaining the focal points of concern. In **Maputo**, political protests intensified as allegations of electoral fraud fueled widespread demonstrations, road blockages, and confrontations with security forces. Violent clashes between police and protesters, including the death of a teenager in Maxaquene, underscored the growing tension in the capital. These events disrupted transportation, economic activities, and public services, exacerbating the political crisis.

In **Cabo Delgado**, violence and instability continued to grip the province. Insurgent activity was concentrated in districts such as Ancuabe and Chiúre, with attacks on villages, militia groups, and local administrative posts. Meanwhile, an unrelated large-scale raid on Montepuez Ruby Mining, linked to illegal mining and organized by foreign nationals, highlighted broader issues of lawlessness and governance challenges in the region.



## Cabo Delgado Security Situation

This week's security incidents in Cabo Delgado reflect a notable escalation in both the intensity and scope of insurgent activities compared to the previous week. While the previous week was marked by insurgents spreading fear through displacements, sporadic attacks, and movements, this week saw a shift toward more coordinated and impactful operations that have heightened insecurity across the region.

One significant difference is the geographic expansion of insurgent activity. While last week focused primarily on districts like Nangade, Meluco, and Macomia, this week saw intensified activity in Ancuabe and Chiúre, with insurgents targeting local administrative posts and villages. The use of direct violence against Naparama militias, including the killing of a dozen militia members in Nacuale, highlights a strategic shift toward weakening local defense forces.

Separately, a large-scale raid on Montepuez Ruby Mining, one of Mozambique's most valuable economic assets, drew significant attention. The raid was not insurgent-related but rather tied to illegal mining operations organized by Zacare Idrisse, a foreign national believed to be of Nigerian or Guinean nationality. The incident resulted in the arrest of 44 foreign nationals involved in unauthorized mining. This event underscores broader governance challenges in Cabo Delgado, particularly in managing resources and combating organized crime networks that exploit the region's natural wealth.

Another stark contrast lies in the direct confrontations between insurgents and pro-government forces. Last week, there were limited reports of direct engagements, with insurgents focusing on sporadic violence, displacement, and psychological tactics like beheadings to intimidate civilians. This week, however, insurgents launched an aggressive assault on local Naparama militias in Nacuale, killing at least a dozen members in a single attack. This direct confrontation signals a boldness in insurgent strategy, as they seek to undermine local defense groups that are critical to community security in the absence of strong government control. While the Naparamas and Mozambican military managed to arrest several insurgents in Nanjua, the militia's losses reveal the challenges of relying on poorly equipped local forces to counter increasingly coordinated insurgent attacks.

The involvement of the **Islamic State in Mozambique** this week further distinguishes these events from the previous week. The group claimed responsibility for multiple attacks in Ancuabe, including those in Nacuale and Nanao. This international connection suggests the insurgency is not only maintaining but strengthening its ties with global extremist networks. This development raises the stakes for counterinsurgency efforts, as it indicates access to broader resources, training, and propaganda capabilities that could further destabilize Cabo Delgado.

In terms of humanitarian impact, both weeks saw widespread panic and displacement. However, this week's incidents triggered more expansive disruptions. The abandonment of Mitepo village in Meluco and panic in the Mesa and Metoro administrative posts illustrate the growing psychological toll on civilians, where even the mere approach of insurgents is enough to displace entire communities. This highlights the increasing effectiveness of insurgents in sowing fear and destabilizing local governance structures.

A notable international development this week was the **European Union's grant of €20 million to support Rwandan forces combating terrorism in Mozambique**. While the presence of Rwandan troops has been a key factor in containing some insurgent advances, the EU's financial support underscores Mozambique's continued reliance on external assistance. This reliance contrasts with the ongoing challenges faced by local Naparama militias and Mozambican forces, which remain under-resourced and vulnerable to insurgent attacks, as evidenced by this week's heavy losses in Nacuale.

Overall, this week has demonstrated a significant escalation in insurgent tactics, shifting from localized movements and sporadic violence last week to direct engagements with local forces and expanded geographic reach. While the **Montepuez Ruby Mining raid** highlights the role of organized crime unrelated to the insurgency, the broader security crisis in Cabo Delgado continues to pose a growing threat to Mozambique's economic and regional stability. The continued displacement of civilians, coupled with the challenges faced by local and national forces, highlights the urgent need for enhanced coordination, better resourcing, and sustained international support to counter the evolving insurgency.

## Incidents

- **November 14:** Insurgent movement in Mitepo, and crossing of the Montepuez river into Ancuabe.
  - **November 15:** A large-scale raid reported at Montepuez Ruby Mining.
  - **November 17:** Mozambican military and the local pro-government forces – Naparamas – reportedly arrested several insurgents in Nanjua village of Ancuabe District.
  - **November 17:** Reports indicate that insurgents kill at least a dozen of Naparama militia in the Nacuale village in Ancuabe.
  - **November 17:** The Islamic State in Mozambique claimed responsibility for an attack in the village of Nacuale and Nanao, in Ancuabe.
  - **November 17:** Reported assault in Mehecane and Mocone villages, in Ancuabe.
  - **November 17:**
  - **November 18:** Residents experience moments of panic following terrorists' approach in the Administrative Posts of Mesa and Metoro in Ancuabe district.
  - **November 19:** European Union grants 20 million euros to support Rwandan army in combating terrorism in Mozambique.
  - **November 19:** The armed men captured by the local militia in the district of Ancuabe in the province of Cabo Delgado were military personnel.
  - **November 19:** The population of Mitepo, Meluco district, in the Mozambican province of Cabo Delgado, abandoned the community in panic due to and alert that suspected terrorists were approaching.
  - **November 20:** Montepuez Ruby Mining reports another invasion of its mine in Montepuez, Cabo Delgado.
  - **November 21:** Reported assault in Mapai/Muepa village, in Chiúre.
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## Political Protests and Election Incidents

This week's political unrest in Mozambique has intensified, with protests spreading geographically and growing more organized. The demonstrations, largely driven by allegations of electoral fraud and dissatisfaction with the government, have taken on both peaceful and confrontational tones. In Maputo, protests erupted across the city on November 15, with widespread road blockages, burning tires, and symbolic actions such as banging pans and honking horns. Some areas, like Avenida Joaquim Chissano and the Zimpeto Stadium, saw disruptions that paralyzed movement, while other parts of the city experienced celebratory, non-violent gatherings. However, the government's response was harsh, with police deploying tear gas, firing live rounds, and clashing with protesters. Tragically, these confrontations resulted in the death of a 17-year-old in the Maxaquene neighborhood, adding to the growing toll of violence.

Beyond Maputo, the unrest extended to other provinces. In Sofala, the sound of pans in Beira echoed the nationwide frustration, but the week took a darker turn when police fatally shot a citizen in the Matacuane neighborhood during protests. In Manica, the city of Chimoio witnessed one of the bloodiest incidents, with eight people killed, six injured, and 21 arrested during a two-day demonstration. Nampula also saw protests marked by the symbolic sound of pans, accompanied by tear gas and gunfire from police. Meanwhile, in Cabo Delgado's Pemba City, cars stopped and honked in a peaceful demonstration, showing solidarity with the national movement.

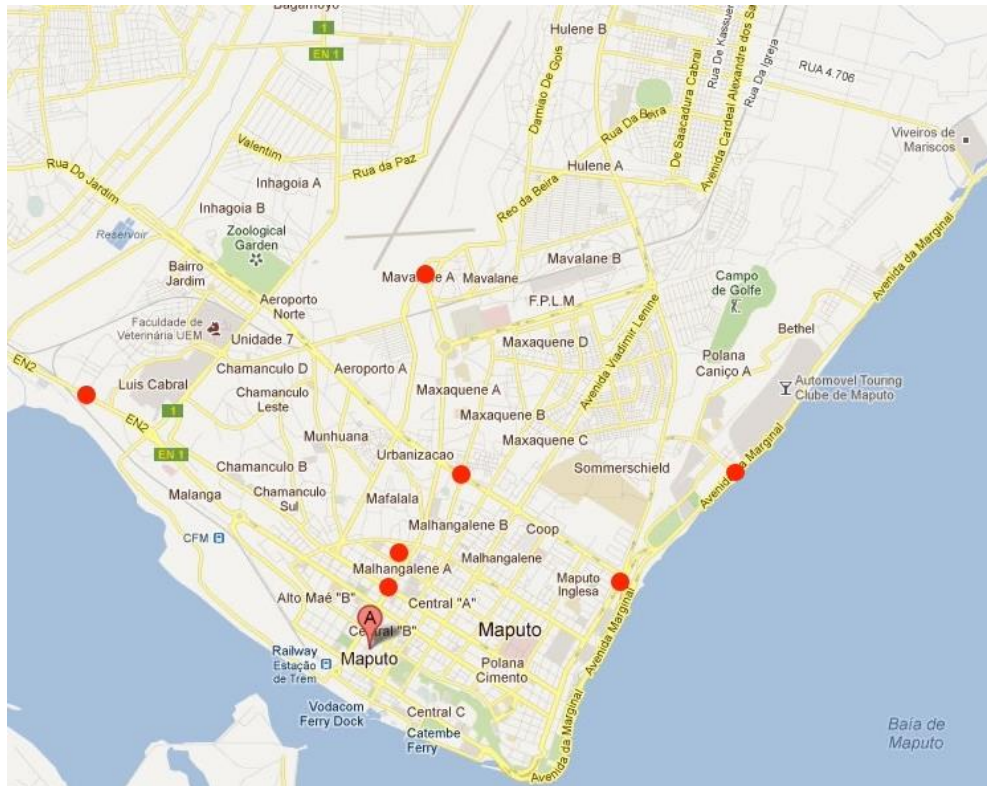
On the national stage, the tension between the government and opposition parties deepened. Venâncio Mondlane, a leading opposition figure, continued to organize protests, even as the government escalated its legal and financial crackdown on him and the PODEMOS party. The Attorney General's Office froze Mondlane's accounts and filed lawsuits, accusing him of inciting unrest. Simultaneously, President Nyusi called for dialogue with opposition leaders, though many saw this as contradictory given the ongoing repression of protesters and opposition figures.

Internationally, Mozambique's crisis is drawing growing attention. The United Nations and the European Union both expressed concern over the violence and called for an immediate end to the repression of protests. Regional bodies like the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP) offered to mediate dialogue between the government and opposition. Protests in solidarity with Mozambicans were also reported in Portugal and Nigeria, showing the global resonance of the country's political turmoil.

Economic disruptions have compounded the crisis. Protests have paralyzed key infrastructure, including ports in Maputo and Nacala, and caused losses of 384 million meticaïs at Maputo port alone. The sound of pans and honking horns—meant as a peaceful protest symbol—has also become a sign of Mozambique's growing economic strain, as demonstrations disrupt transport, markets, and daily activities.

This week's events mark a significant escalation compared to the previous week. While last week focused largely on sporadic unrest and displacement, this week demonstrated the scale and intensity of political grievances. The government's heavy-handed response, including shootings, mass arrests, and lawsuits, has done little to ease tensions. Instead, these actions risk deepening the divide between the government and its citizens. Calls for dialogue from international actors suggest there is still an opportunity to de-escalate the crisis, but without tangible steps to address grievances, Mozambique risks prolonged instability and further damage to its social and economic fabric.

## Areas affected during 12 - 12:30pm stop and honk period: November 20th



Demonstration hotspots 20<sup>th</sup> November, Maputo.

Demonstrations in:

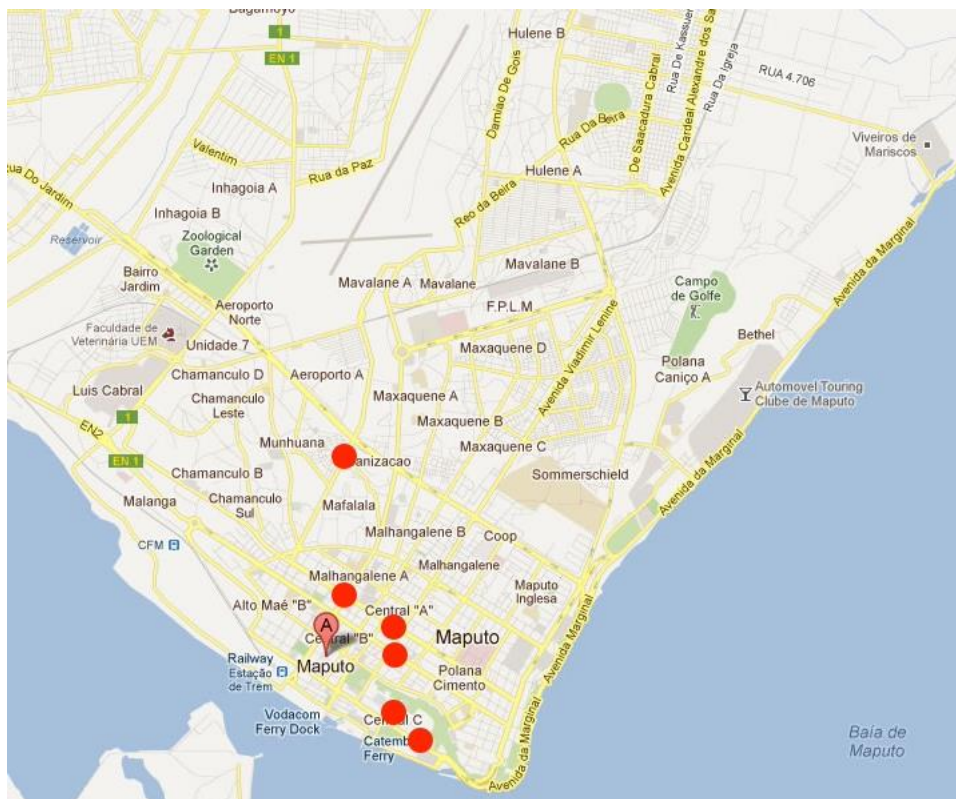
### Maputo

1. Julius Nyerere from Mao Tse Tung to Praça do Destacamento Femenino (Presidência).
2. Guerra Popular from Av. 25 de Setembro until Ponto Final.
3. Av. Emilia Dausse - Mercado Estrela Vermelha.
4. Brigada de Maquinag (N4).
5. N4 Ressano Garcia.
6. Maputo – Matola tollgate.
7. Av. Milagre Mabote and Av. Joaquim Chissano.
8. Entry road to the International Airport.
9. Av. Angola from Alto Mae to Airport.
10. N1 from Jardim neighborhood to Zimpeto.
11. Av. Vladimir Lenine from Xiquelene to Praça da OMM.

### Cabo Delgado

1. Nacala Port (Cidade Alta).
2. Pemba city (near Mcel).

## Areas affected during 12 - 12:30pm stop and honk period: November 21st



Demonstration hotspots 21<sup>st</sup> November, Maputo.

Groups of people seen peacefully demonstrating in 25 de Setembro, stopping traffic, wearing black and singing the National Anthem.

Demonstrations in:

1. Throughout Av. 25 de Setembro.
2. Heavy traffic in Av. Angola and groups of protestors walking towards FRELIMO party headquarters.
3. Throughout Av. Eduardo Mondlane.
4. Av. 24 de Julho.
5. Av. Julius Nyere in front of old Xenon.



As a sign of demonstration many people took to the street wearing black, Maputo.



Protestor face to face with a military during protests in Maputo City, November 2024.

### **Summary of President Nyusi's speech, November 19:**

President Nyusi delivered a comprehensive address emphasizing the need for unity, stability, and a collective commitment to peace amidst ongoing unrest in Mozambique. He called on state security stakeholders to prioritize non-lethal, dissuasive measures and adhere to rules of engagement that safeguard citizens' freedoms, particularly for essential activities like marriages, funerals, and church services. Stressing the importance of reducing political tensions, Nyusi urged leaders and the public to avoid treating political adversaries as enemies, condemning hate speech and the vilification of opponents for personal gain.

Providing updates on the national situation, the president highlighted the detrimental effects of over 200 reported strikes, including restricted movement, looting, sabotage, and infrastructure attacks, such as those on electrical towers. These incidents have resulted in 19 fatalities, including five police officers, alongside disruptions in healthcare services, such as the closure of 19 vaccination units and a sharp decline in hospital operations. The unrest has also spread fear among communities and undermined national pride, with vandalism targeting Mozambique's National Soccer Team, ports, railways, and traffic infrastructure, further straining the economy. Nyusi underlined the broader consequences of this instability, including inflation, scarcity of essential goods, and reputational damage deterring foreign investments. Drawing parallels to other nations facing social turmoil, he warned against escalation toward scenarios like a coup d'état. Nonetheless, the president expressed optimism, citing a recent decrease in incidents and reaffirming the government's commitment to open dialogue. He invited all four presidential candidates, including Daniel Chapo, Ossufo Momade, and Venâncio Mondlane, to engage in discussions aimed at resolving the crisis.

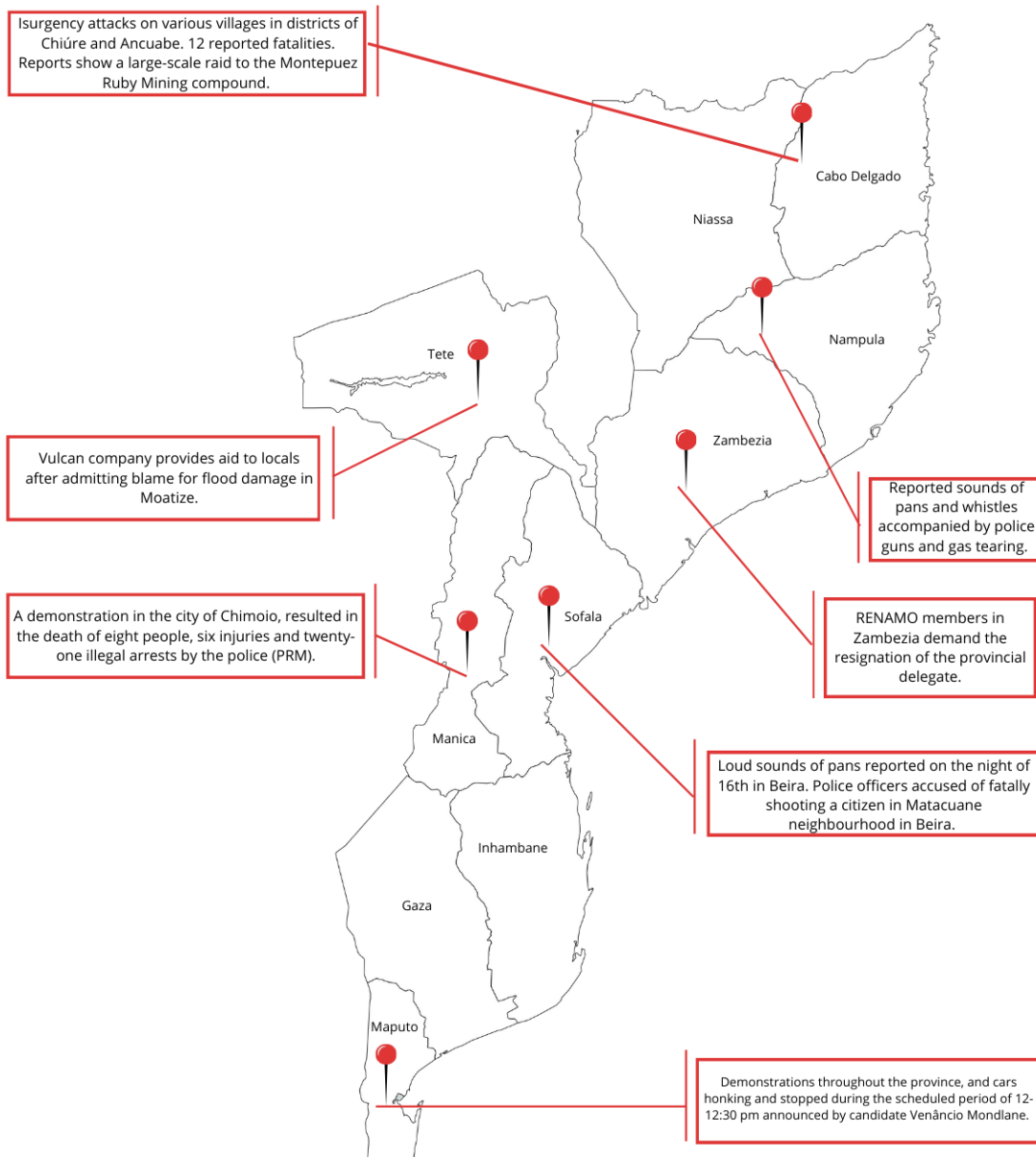
The president concluded by urging influencers and leaders to advocate for peace, encouraging citizens, especially youth, to avoid participating in disruptive activities. Reiterating his government's commitment to freedom of expression and the rule of law, Nyusi called for patience as the nation awaits the Constitutional Council's final election results. His closing message was a heartfelt appeal to end the violence, rebuild trust, and restore stability, paving the way for a peaceful and prosperous Mozambique.

## Summary of Venâncio Mondlane's Speech, November 19:

Venâncio Mondlane announced this afternoon the holding of the second phase of the fourth stage of post-election protests for the 20th to 22nd of November as a period of 3 days of national mourning for the more than 50 deaths since the protests began. This phase will include:

- Dressing in black or wearing some black piece of clothing during the 3 days
- Every day at 12 noon and for 15 minutes, all vehicles traveling on the streets must stop where they are and honk their horn.
- Those who do not have vehicles must, during these 15 minutes, stand on the streets with home-made posters
- Pot banging from 9 pm onwards, but only at home and within the neighbourhood blocks, among people you know to avoid the infiltration of agitators who promote vandalism.

Venâncio Mondlane reiterated the peaceful nature of the protests and distanced himself from the acts of vandalism that have taken place, accusing infiltrators of being to blame for the vandalism.



## Incidents

### Maputo Province

- **November 15:** Burning tires on Av. Joaquim Chissano near OMM.
- **November 15:** Tires on fire in Choupal along Av. de Moçambique.
- **November 15:** Toll gate was temporarily closed in the morning.
- **November 15:** Roads in Missão Roque, Benfica, Bagamoio blocked by tires on fire.
- **November 15:** Truck stopped on the road before Casa Branca, in direction from Matola to Maputo.
- **November 15:** Protest took place in Pratices neighbourhood in direction to T3.
- **November 15:** Shots and teargas reported in Zona Verde.
- **November 15:** Access roads to Zimpeto stadium blocked by cars and fires.
- **November 15:** Cheerful protest atmosphere and no police presence reported between hospital Privado and Golf building.
- **November 15:** Sound of pans heard throughout Maputo and people seen outside on the streets protesting.
- **November 15:** Circular and N1 near Bobole blocked at night time.
- **November 15:** A road accident killed seven people and injured and unspecified number in Texlon, Matola during the night as demonstrations were taking place.
- **November 16:** Police paralyze teachers protest using tear gas.
- **November 16:** Women march in Maquinag area, no violence reported.
- **November 16:** Sound of pans at night in Maputo and Matola.
- **November 17:** 17-year-old young man is killed by police during the demonstration in the Maxaquene neighborhood in the city of Maputo.
- **November 17:** A Mozambican lawyer shoots at protesters in Maputo under allegations of self-defense.
- **November 17:** Protests in Chibuto with reported fires and movement of people on the road.
- **November 18:** Protestes reported in Machava.
- **November 18:** A climate of terror reigns at night in Maputo, led by groups of criminals who vandalize and rob motorists in the name of demonstrations.
- **November 18:** Maputo port lost 384 million meticaís due to demonstrations.
- **November 20:** Around 6:30am in Texlon, Matola, people gathered to mourn the passing of individuals in the accident in Circular on the 15th.
- **November 20:** Protests recorded in Estrela Vermelha Market.
- **November 20:** Julius Nyerere blocked off by police between Mao Tse Tung and Praça do Destacamento Femenino in preparation of the cars stopping and honking from 12 to 12:30pm.
- **November 20:** From 12 to 12:30pm traffic stopped in major routes and cars honked loudly, no violence was reported.
- **November 20:** While reporting on the situation in Julius Nyerere, a journalist from the Centre for Democracy and Human Rights (CDD) was confronted by military personal who took her phone without consent and detained her.
- **November 20:** Presidente do partido Revolução Democrática detido por planejar um ataque à residência oficial do Presidente da República, o Palácio da Ponta Vermelha, no dia 7 de novembro de 2024, como parte dos protestos pós-eleitorais.
- **November 21:** The Judicial Court of the City of Maputo (TJCM), through the Criminal Instruction Section (SIC), urgently requested the details and freezing of the accounts held by the independent presidential candidate, Venâncio Mondlane.

## Sofala Province

- **November 16:** Sound of pans at night in Beira city.
- **November 20:** Police officers are accused of fatally shooting a citizen in the Matacuane neighborhood, Beira.

## Manica Province

- **November 17 & 18:** A demonstration in the city of Chimoio, resulted in the death of eight people, six injuries and twenty-one illegal arrests by the police (PRM).

## Zambezia Province

- **November 20:** RENAMO members in Zambezia demand the resignation of the provincial delegate.

## Nampula Province

- **November 15:** Reported sound of pans and whistles accompanied by police guns and gas tearing.
- **November 20:** From 12 to 12:30 pm the Port of Nacala, in Nacala Alta, saw traffic of cars honking and demonstrations.

## Cabo Delgado Province

- **November 20:** In Pemba City, near Mcel, people were seen demonstrating with cars stopped and honking during the period of 12 to 12:30pm.

## National & International

- **November 15:** Wave of sounds of pans and horns mark the weekend in Mozambique. Protests also took place in Lisbon and Porto, Portugal.
- **November 15:** Venancio Mondlane says there is a situation of state terrorism.
- **November 15:** Teachers threaten to boycott final school exams in Mozambique
- **November 17:** UN calls on government to “to put an immediate end to violence”.

- **November 18:** The European Union (EU) expresses "deep concern" about ongoing violence following the elections in Mozambique.
- **November 18:** The RENAMO party demands annulment of October 9 elections process.
- **November 18:** PRM reports that the protests have resulted in five deaths and 136 arrests in Mozambique in the last 5 days.
- **November 18:** The Mozambique Bar Association calls on the Constitutional Council to decide as quickly as possible on electoral results.
- **November 19:** Daniel Chapo, FRELIMO candidate, invited to speak at Chatham House in London on December 4th and 6th.
- **November 18:** Public Ministry demands compensation of 32.3 million Meticaís from Venâncio Mondlane and Albino Forquilha for disobedience and calling for illegal demonstrations.
- **November 19:** President Nyusi proposes a meeting with presidential candidates to discuss the current situation in the country.
- **November 19:** Venâncio Mondlane announced the 2nd phase of the 4th stage of protests. Mondlane calls for three days of National Mourning to be observed for the victims of the protests.
- **November 19:** President Nyusi spoke to the nation addressing the current situation in the country.
- **November 19:** The Bar Association calls on protesters to avoid violence and refrain from looting.
- **November 19:** PGR files civil lawsuit against Venâncio Mondlane and PODEMOS party.
- **November 19:** Victims of police violence during demonstrations guarantee that they will continue to fight for electoral truth.
- **November 20:** According to Mondlane, around 300,000 Zimbabwean citizens voted illegally in Mozambique's general elections.
- **November 20:** The Take it Back Movement in Nigeria stands in Solidarity with Mozambicans who are protesting and supports the PODEMOS party and its leader, Mondlane.
- **November 20:** Podemos claims that the action by the Attorney General's Office is aimed at intimidating the party and its candidate, Venâncio Mondlane.
- **November 20:** The Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD) claims that criminal proceedings against some politicians and their political parties may undermine confidence in dialogue to overcome the current post-election crisis.
- **November 20:** Leaders of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) express concern about the post-election crisis in Mozambique and hope for dialogue.
- **November 20:** The Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP) says it is available to facilitate dialogue between the parties in Mozambique.
- **November 20:** Cuba and Libya congratulate Daniel Chapo on his election victory.
- **November 20:** Drivers in Maputo, Matola, and Beira stopped their vehicles and honked their horns for 15 minutes. Other people dressed in black took to the streets chanting and holding placards.

## General Incidents

- **November 15:** Twelve individuals hurt in a road accident in Circular.
- **November 16:** Criminals set fire to two schools located in the Bagamoyo neighborhood, city of Maputo
- **November 17:** Two South African journalists detained by Mozambican authorities have already been released.
- **November 17:** Around 350 customers of the company Electricidade de Moçambique (EDM) in the city of Pemba are in the dark due to electrical equipment failure.

- **November 18:** President Nyusi, in a meeting with political parties, asked for an end to the deaths and destruction of the country resulting from the demonstrations.
- **November 19:** More than 6,500 children remained unvaccinated due to post-election demonstrations in Mozambique.
- **November 19:** The government continues not to pay basic social subsidies to thousands of families.
- **November 19:** Car set on fire on Maputo–Katembe bridge.
- **November 20:** Vulcan provides aid to locals after admitting blame for flood damage in Moatize.
- **November 20:** Mozambique is among the countries where persecution of Christians has worsened.
- **November 20:** More than 30 people have lost their lives in the last 10 months due to road accidents in the province of Manica.
- **November 20:** The value of tobacco industry production in Mozambique grew 8.8% to September, compared to the same period in 2023, to 4.591 billion meticaís (€67.8 million).
- **November 20:** A total of 44 people have been arrested this year for illegal ruby mining in Montepuez, Cabo Delgado.
- **November 20:** The population in the district of Palma, Cabo Delgado, demonstrates at the TotalEnergies camp in Afungi, demanding payment of their resettlement subsidies.

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