



## Mozambique

**INSIGHT:** Social media commentators' claims in Mozambique that the war against Islamist insurgents is being orchestrated by the government.

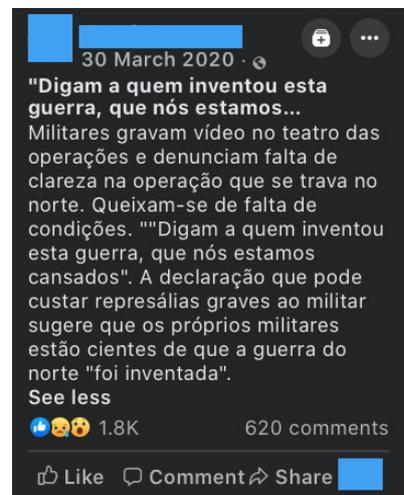
**The FRELIMO-dominated government in Maputo is facing two armed insurgencies: that of militant Islamists groups since 2017, mostly centred in Cabo Delgado province, and the return to arms of RENAMO elements in Sofala province since 2013.**

**Analysis of the deepening conflict in northern Mozambique has highlighted limited state capacity and institutional fragility. The state's weakness is underlined by opinions expressed on social media that reflect the absence of "national unity" in efforts to deal with the insurgency and question the legitimacy of government claims that it is confronting Islamists in the conflict in the north of the country.**

## SOCIAL MEDIA MONITORING

- Monitored comments left by readers in response to news articles covering the insurgency in Cabo Delgado province refer to a "lucrative" war believed to have been orchestrated by the FRELIMO government so that it can continue to receive funds from the European Union and elsewhere. The presence of Islamist militants has been questioned, with claims that they are actually Mozambican soldiers in disguise.
- Some elements in the Mozambican military echo such beliefs. In 2020 a video recording was widely shared of soldiers stationed in northern Mozambique blaming their discontent on "those who invented this war". This sentiment was also expressed in an interview with a soldier who claimed that **"this is not our war"**.

These comments underline the challenges facing the FRELIMO government's attempts to organise effective security for the whole country, as evidenced by the government's increasing reliance on private security companies to deal with the insurgency.



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