



PLATFORM FOR DIALOGUE FOR CONFLICT RESOLUTION IN CABO DELGADO

GUARDIÃO DA DEMOCRACIA E DIREITOS HUMANOS | www.cddmoz.org

Wednesday, May 3, 2023 | Year I, Number 13 | Director: Prof. Adriano Nuvunga | English

Five FADM soldiers were killed in an ambush by violent extremists in the Muidumbe district

- At least five members of the Armed Forces for the Defense of Mozambique (FADM) were fatally shot in an ambush set up by violent extremists in Mandava village, in the Muidumbe district, north of Cabo Delgado. In addition to deaths, there are records of several injured militaries.





Credits: DW

The ambush took place around 07:00 on Sunday morning (April 30) and targeted a military vehicle that had left the village of Muambula, where it had gone to load supplies for a contingent of the FADM stationed in the district of Muidumbe.

Local sources said that in the last seven days, the lower area of Muidumbe has been the scene of strong clashes between violent extremists and the Defense and Security Forces, supported by members of the Local Force. A military ambulance escorted by Botswana troops was seen leaving the Mueda district towards Muidumbe, where it is believed that it was going to save soldiers wounded in clashes with violent extremists.

The lower region of the Muidumbe district, specifically the villages of Mandava, Mandela and Litapata, as well as the villages of Homba, in the Mueda district, Litandacua, in Macomia, and Chachaxa, in the Meluco district, became the preferred location for violent extremists in recent months after being driven out of their main base in the Kathupa region in mid-2022.

Two weeks ago, Muidumbe was the target of

an attack by violent extremists, which resulted in the death of at least four people and six wounded, all of whom were hit by gunfire. The CDD found that the violent extremists arrived in the village of Miangalewa around 6 pm on Saturday (April 15), having initially tried to attack the position of the Defense and Security Forces, and later engaged with elements of the Local Force, a group of former combatants fighting violent extremism¹.

Muidumbe district comes at a time when in the northernmost districts of Cabo Delgado, namely Mocímboa da Praia and Palma, security conditions tend to improve, partly due to pressure exerted by TotalEnergies, the French oil company that leads the LNG project suspended in April 2021 due to insecurity. One of the conditions placed by TotalEnergies for the resumption of the Mozambique LNG project is the restoration of security and improvement of the humanitarian situation in Palma and Mocímboa da Praia. In response, the Government “handed over” the security of the districts to Rwandan troops, who have been fighting in Cabo Delgado since July 2021.

¹ <https://cddmoz.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Extremistas-violentos-quebram-jejum-e-fazem-quatro-mortos-e-seis-feridos-em-ataque-a-aldeia-de-Miangalewa-em-Muidumbe.pdf>



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