



PLATFORM FOR DIALOGUE FOR CONFLICT RESOLUTION IN CABO DELGADO

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NEW WAVE OF ATTACKS IN CABO DELGADO

Violent extremists attack FDS's position in Montepuez and force Gemfields to halt gold exploration

- Two weeks after launching violent attacks against civilians in the districts of Macomia, Quisanga, and Meluco, violent extremists carried out yet another attack, this time targeting the Defense and Security Forces (FDS). The attack began around 11:30 pm on Sunday and only ended at 4:00 am on Monday (February 13), when the violent extremists attacked and occupied, for a few hours, a joint position of the FDS at the headquarters of the administrative post of Nairoto, district of Montepuez.





Nairoto is approximately 15 km southwest of the Nairoto gold exploration field Resources Limited (NRL), 75% owned by Britain’s Gemfields; and 83 km north of the Montepuez Ruby concession Mining Limitada (MRM), in which Gemfields also owns 75%. Following the attacks 15 km away from the gold exploration field, Nairoto Resources ceased operations and evacuated the entire camp, removing its workers and contractors to safe locations.

The base attacked included members of the Armed Forces for the Defense of Mozambique (FADM), the Police of the Republic of Mozambique (PRM), and Migration. At least five FDS members who were on the base at the time of the attack were killed and most managed to

flee, leaving weapons and other property behind.

In addition to human victims, the violent extremists burned five vehicles, four of which were used for different missions by the FDS and one belonging to a road and bridge construction company, which is carrying out routine maintenance work on the Nairoto - village of Mueda.

The Administrator of the Montepuez district, Isaura Máquina, confirmed the attack in Nairoto and admitted the occupation and burning of equipment, including vehicles, but did not comment on the casualties suffered by the FDS. Isaura Máquina said that other FDS teams had already traveled to Nairoto to control the situation and asked for greater vigilance and report-



ing of strange movements in the communities.

Local sources point out that with the attack and occupation of the FDS base in Nairoto, the violent extremists reinforced their logistical capacity, as they managed to seize war material, including uniforms for regular troops. Local reports put the number of violent extremists who launched the attack on the Nairoto base at 100.

This is the eighth attack by the violent extremists in two weeks. The new wave of attacks comes at a time when French oil company TotalEnergies is starting to show signs of resuming operations at the Mozambique LNG project – suspended in April 2021 due to deteriorating security conditions in Palma.

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