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INSURRECTION, TERRORISM AND WAR IN CABO DELGADO, MOZAMBIQUE (2017-2025): SURVEY OF ACADEMIC RESEARCH INDEXED PUBLICATIONS

INSURREIÇÃO, TERRORISMO E GUERRA EM CABO DELGADO, MOÇAMBIQUE (2017-2025): LEVANTAMENTO DE PUBLICAÇÕES CIENTÍFICAS INDEXADAS

INSURRECCIÓN, TERRORISMO Y GUERRA EN CABO DELGADO, MOZAMBIQUE (2017-2025): ENCUESTA DE PUBLICACIONES DE INVESTIGACIÓN ACADÉMICA INDEXADAS

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ABSTRACT
This investigation presents a comprehensive inventory, analysis, and critical summary of all academic publications on the Cabo Delgado conflict that are indexed in various current scientific repertoires. This thorough research has validated 35 scientific articles published since 2020—three years after the initial terrorist attacks in the region—across 23 distinct academic journals. Additionally, the study has endorsed seven book chapters published between 2020 and 2024 within four thematic editions, along with four academic books centered on insurrection and terrorism in Cabo Delgado, released in 2019, 2021, 2022, and 2023. This collection represents contributions from 84 authors, of whom a concerning 11 (13.09%) are women. Among the scholars and researchers, 28 (33.3%) are from South Africa, 24 (28.5%) from Mozambique, 13 (15.4%) from Zimbabwe, with others hailing from the United Kingdom, Lesotho, Kenya, Brazil, Italy, Namibia, Nigeria, Norway, Portugal, Sudan, Trinidad and Tobago, and the US. This paper provides detailed critical summaries of all publications, highlighting their primary perspectives on the Cabo Delgado insurrection from various scientific fields, including International Relations, sociology, and political studies. The findings of this critical and analytical inventory indicate that the Cabo Delgado issue still requires further research, diverse perspectives, and funding to establish it as an international scientific subject.

KEYWORDS: Cabo Delgado. Mozambique. Terrorism.

RESUMO
Esta investigação apresenta um inventário completo, análise e resumo críticos de todas as publicações académicas sobre o conflito de Cabo Delgado, indexadas nos vários repertórios científicos atuais. Esta investigação exaustiva validou 35 artigos científicos publicados desde 2020 — três anos após os ataques terroristas iniciais na região — em 23 revistas académicas distintas. Além disso, o estudo catalogou sete capítulos de livros publicados entre 2020 e 2024, em quatro diferentes edições temáticas, juntamente com quatro livros académicos centrados na insurreição e no terrorismo em Cabo Delgado, lançados em 2019, 2021, 2022 e 2023. Esta coletânea representa os contributos de 84 autores, dos quais apenas 11 (13,09%) são mulheres. Entre os académicos e investigadores, 28 (33,3%) são da África do Sul, 24 (28,5%) de Moçambique, 13

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(15,4%) do Zimbabué, e outros são oriundos do Reino Unido, Lesoto, Quénia, Brasil, Itália, Namíbia, Nigéria, Noruega, Portugal, Sudão, Trinidad e Tobago e EUA. Este artigo oferece resumos críticos detalhados de todas as publicações, destacando as suas principais perspetivas sobre a insurreição de Cabo Delgado mobilizando vários campos científicos, incluindo as Relações Internacionais, a Sociologia e os Estudos políticos. Os resultados deste inventário crítico e analítico indicam que a questão de Cabo Delgado ainda requer mais investigação, perspectivas diversas e renovados financiamentos para se estabelecer como um tema científico internacional.

PALAVRAS-CHAVE: Cabo Delgado. Moçambique. Terrorismo.

RESUMEN
Esta investigación presenta un inventario exhaustivo, un análisis y un resumen crítico de todas las publicaciones académicas sobre el conflicto de Cabo Delgado indexadas en diversos repertorios científicos actuales. Esta exhaustiva investigación ha validado 35 artículos científicos publicados desde 2020, tres años después de los primeros atentados terroristas en la región, en 23 revistas académicas distintas. Además, el estudio ha respaldado siete capítulos de libros publicados entre 2020 y 2024 en cuatro ediciones temáticas, junto con cuatro libros académicos centrados en la insurrección y el terrorismo en Cabo Delgado, publicados en 2019, 2021, 2022 y 2023. Esta colección representa las contribuciones de 84 autores, de los cuales un preocupante 11 (13,09%) son mujeres. Entre los académicos e investigadores, 28 (33,3%) son de Sudáfrica, 24 (28,5%) de Mozambique, 13 (15,4%) de Zimbabue, y otros provienen del Reino Unido, Lesoto, Kenia, Brasil, Italia, Namibia, Nigeria, Noruega, Portugal, Sudán, Trinidad y Tobago y Estados Unidos. Este artículo ofrece resúmenes críticos detallados de todas las publicaciones, destacando sus principales perspectivas sobre la insurrección de Cabo Delgado desde diversos campos científicos, como las relaciones internacionales, la sociología y los estudios políticos. Los hallazgos de este inventario crítico y analítico indican que el tema de Cabo Delgado aún requiere mayor investigación, perspectivas diversas y financiación para consolidarlo como un tema científico internacional.

PALABRAS CLAVE: Cabo Delgado. Mozambique. Terrorismo.

INTRODUCTION

Since the initial attack on October 5, 2017, by Islamic extremists in Mozambique's Cabo Delgado region—known as al-Shabaab, Ansar al-Sunnah, or more commonly, Ahlu Sunnah wa Jama'a (ASWJ), and locally referred to as “Mashababe”—there have been over 600 recorded armed incursions. These incidents have led to approximately 8,000 fatalities among both civilians and military personnel, along with hundreds more injured and nearly a million displaced. The violence has caused significant destruction to infrastructure, including road networks and electrical systems, and has caused extensive damage to numerous public and private buildings. Cabo Delgado is one of the poorest provinces in Mozambique, with most residents relying on subsistence farming or fishing for their livelihoods. Historically, during Portuguese colonial rule, the region was a prime target for slave traders, and the predominantly Muslim population often faced forced labor in the production of cotton and other export crops (Bonate, 2010, p. 573-93). Following the onset of Mozambique’s war of independence, the largely Christian Makonde group from the province's highlands played a crucial role in the liberation movement and subsequently in the

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Frelimo governments established after independence in 1975 (Israel, 2006, p. 103-126), while the coastal Muslim Mwani people experienced considerable marginalization (Newitt, 2017, p. 89-93).

In contrast, Cabo Delgado has long been home to vast areas of Mozambique's natural resource wealth. Illegal logging, often carried out by Chinese companies backed by well-connected elites in Maputo, has led to some forests being almost entirely cleared, although there have been efforts to curb the process in recent years (Robison, 2012, p. 10-11). The largest known graphite deposits were found in the province in 2014, and nearly half of the world's rubies lie beneath its soil. The artisanal miners who discovered these rubies in 2009 were violently expelled from the region by Mozambican security forces to make way for a partnership between a UK-based company and another owned by powerful figures with ties to the ruling Frelimo party. Added to all these riches was the more recent discovery of large offshore gas reserves off the province's coastline, formed by the mouth of the Rovuma River, which borders Tanzania (Feijó; Orre, 2024, p. 1-29).

In response to the rising violence associated with the insurgency, Rwanda deployed 1,000 soldiers to Cabo Delgado province in 2021 at the request of then-Mozambican President Filipe Nyusi. This contingent eventually expanded to 2,500 personnel, including police officers, and operated in conjunction with forces from the Southern African Development Community (SADC), formally known as the Southern African Development Community Mission in Mozambique (SAMIM). Stationed primarily in Palma and Mocímboa da Praia, the Rwandan troops focused on securing towns, reopening vital roads, and pursuing extremist guerrillas hiding in remote regions. As of May 2023, Mozambican leaders announced that the insurgency had been largely neutralized, with estimates indicating that between 60% and 80% of the civilians who had fled the violence were able to return to their homes (Pherudi, 2023, p. 147-159; Shield, 2023, p. 1041-1065).

This political optimism proved to be greatly overstated and ultimately misleading. In mid-November 2024, ASJW terrorist groups escalated their activities in Cabo Delgado, launching assaults on Muidumbe and Ancuabe. Residents reported that at least 14 individuals were killed, including members of the Namparamas, a traditional self-defense group formed to protect local communities. On November 18, another armed faction invaded the town of Nacuale, injuring several people and setting fire to civilian homes and craft shops. In the first week of December, extremists operating under the ASJW banner conducted a nighttime attack on the Muaguide administrative post, located 50 kilometers from the Meluco district headquarters. The assault resulted in injuries to a Mozambican police officer, the destruction of the post chief's house, and the looting of medications from the local health center. The assailants then moved on to the community of Mariria, approximately one kilometer from Meluco, where they looted essential goods from two shacks and burned two additional homes. More recently, in early February 2025, another extremist group targeted three gemstone mines in the town of Ravia, resulting in at least five fatalities. The insurgency persisted throughout the summer months, with further attacks occurring

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in August and September. Unable to combat these attacks and defend the populations at a time of great civil crisis following the recent disputed presidential elections, the central Frelimo government once again asked Rwanda for help, which offered to send a new military contingent to support the fight against terrorism in Cabo Delgado, this time counting on financial aid from the European Union that provided an additional 20 million euros to Rwandan forces.

Despite the escalating violence, significant gaps remain in our understanding and interpretation of the issue. There is currently no consensus on the primary drivers of extremism in the region, particularly regarding the connections between local, regional, and international extremist networks. Experts have encountered challenges in identifying the constituents of ASWJ, often presenting conflicting perspectives and failing to address crucial questions concerning its objectives, recruitment, and funding sources. It is noteworthy that the violent and persistent insurgency in Cabo Delgado has garnered international media attention due to its devastating effects on the local population and economy, with implications that extend beyond the region. While various political commentaries and occasional articles exist, there is a stark contrast with the relatively limited number of well-founded scientific studies that can illuminate the complex roots of the conflict—roots that intertwine historical, political, socioeconomic, environmental, religious, and ideological factors. Consequently, the aim of this research is to conduct a comprehensive inventory of the available indexed academic and scientific literature on the Islamic extremist insurgency in Cabo Delgado.

Survey of academic research and publications 1:

Indexed Books, Books' chapters and academic papers

The aim of this work is not to engage in lengthy, tedious, and often contentious debates regarding the definition of an academic or scientific bibliography, nor to grapple with the complex concept of science, which encompasses a broad spectrum of definitions and perspectives. Such intricate discussions and efforts to "define" terms can significantly impede the progress of any research. Therefore, we have adopted a straightforward and pragmatic approach that, while widely used, remains a topic of considerable debate: we rely on the comprehensive inventories of authors and titles provided by available academic and scientific publication indexes, whether they are public, private, institutional, or corporate (Abramo; D'angelo; Costa, 2010; Hanson; Barreiro; Crosetto; Brockington, 2024, p. 823-843; Larivière; Haustein; Mongeon, 2015, p. 1-15; Paramasivan, 2024). This validation encompasses journal articles, book chapters, and books indexed in at least one of these databases. Consequently, this process naturally excludes other types of texts and articles, such as opinion pieces, research notes, and working reports generated for international organizations and NGOs. Although some of these may indeed be high-quality

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sources that disseminate reliable data, they are often published in media formats, primarily online, that lie outside the purview of academic indexes. Ultimately, this inventory does not serve as a judgment of the quality or relevance of the texts; rather, it establishes a practical criterion intended to facilitate research, particularly for graduate students and researchers focused on the Cabo Delgado conflict.

This thorough and detailed research has validated 35 scientific articles published across 23 distinct academic journals, all of which are recognized and indexed in multiple consulted databases. Additionally, it has sanctioned the validation of seven book chapters published in 2020 and 2024 within four diverse thematic editions, as well as four academic books focused on the topics of insurrection and terrorism in Cabo Delgado, published in 2019, 2021, 2022 and 2023. These works are also listed in more than one index. Consequently, this complete collection appears in at least two of the following academic and scientific indices, which are organized below in alphabetical order, detailing characteristics and web access:

Acronym	Name	Characteristics	Website
AJOL	African Journals Online	Private Non-profit Org.	https://www.ajol.info
ASAO	African Studies Abstracts Online	Public (disc. 2025) Institutional	https://ascleiden.nl/content/african-studies-abstracts-online
ASSIA	Applied Social Science Index and Abstracts	Private Corporate	https://proquest.libguides.com/assia/content
BASE	Bielefeld Academic Search Engine	Public Institutional	https://www.base-search.net
DOAJ	Directory of Open Access Journals	Private Non-profit Org.	https://doaj.org
EBSCO	EBSCO-Academic Search Database	Private Corporate	https://about.ebsco.com
ERIHPLUS	Index of academic journals in the humanities and social sciences	Private Corporate	https://kanalregister.hkdir.no/publiseringskanaler/erihplus
IBSS	International Bibliography of the Social Sciences	Private Corporate	https://about.proquest.com/en/products-services/ibss
EBSCO	Academic Bibliography Multi-Database Search	Private Corporate	https://about.ebsco.com/
JURN	Database of academic articles and books	Private Non-profit Org.	https://www.jurn.link
LATINDEX	Sistema Regional de Información en línea	Public Institutional	https://www.latindex.org

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	para Revistas Científicas de América Latina, el Caribe, España y Portugal		
OAI	Open Archives Initiative	Private Non-profit Org.	https://www.openarchives.org/
PROQUEST	Platform of Academic Abstracts and Indexes	Private Corporate	https://www.proquest.com/
QUALIS	Brazilian official database of scientific production	Public Institutional	https://sucupira-legado.capes.gov.br/sucupira/public/PublicacaoQualis
RCAAP	Open Access Scientific Repositories of Portugal	Public Institutional	https://www.rcaap.pt/
SABINET	Database of African Academic Journals	Private Corporate	https://ojs.sabinet.co.za/
SCOPUS	Database of Academic articles, conference proceedings, publications, and book chapters	Private Corporate	https://www.scopus.com
SJIF	Database for ranking, evaluating and comparing scientific journals	Private Corporate	https://sjifactor.com
SJR	Scimago Journal & Country Rank Database	Private Corporate	https://www.scimagojr.com
SSCI	Social Sciences Citation Index	Private Corporate	https://clarivate.com/social-sciences-citation-index/
WoS	Web of Science	Private Corporate	https://clarivate.com/web-of-science/

A variety of other databases exist, primarily in the private sector and in digital format, many of which are highly specialized and linked to large international publishing conglomerates. However, the databases discussed here are the only ones that catalog academic publications related to the Cabo Delgado conflict. The significant presence of privately-operated, commercially-oriented repositories has ignited considerable debate and criticism, particularly regarding the marginalization of researchers from developing countries, including the 44 least-developed nations (LARIVIÈRE, HAUSTEIN & MONGEO, 2015: 1-15). Scholars in these regions face an increasing digital divide, resulting in fewer opportunities for publication and challenges in meeting the criteria

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established by these repositories and their affiliated organizations. While this ongoing debate is undoubtedly important, this survey is not the appropriate forum for such discussions. Our primary objective here is to compile a coherent and valuable inventory of academic work related to the Cabo Delgado insurgency, encompassing articles, books, and book chapters.

By first organizing the information from articles published in academic journals listed by the specified indexes into a table, we can illustrate the dispersion of references and quantities that follow the chronological order of the initial indexed publications, which began in 2020. This was three years after the onset of the ongoing insurrection in Cabo Delgado province. This gap raises important questions about the disparity between the current pace of events and social transformations, which academic research tends to address only after the fact, often resulting in publications that reflect political and social developments that have already undergone significant change. This stands in contrast to the initial reports and studies released by international organizations and NGOs. Notably, documentation on the subject was published in early 2018 by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), which included a foundational report on the insurgency and its immediate effects (https://data.unhcr.org/en/country/moz).

Year	Journal	Index	Number of papers	Number of authors
2020	*African Journal of Terrorism and Insurgency Research*	IBSS, EBSCO, ERIHPLUS, SABINET	1	1
2020	*Journal of Eastern African Studies*	AJOL, ASAO, DOAJ	1	1
2021	*Clio. American Political Science Association*	DOAJ, SCOPUS, WoS	1	1
2021	*Small Wars & Insurgencies*	SCOPUS, SJR, WoS	1	1
2021	*Social Analysis: The International Journal of Anthropology*	DOAJ, SJR	1	1
2021	*Síntese. Revista Moçambicana de Ciências Sociais e Filosofia*	AJOL, IBSS, EBSCO	5	5
2022	*Sociologia. Revista da Faculdade de Letras da Universidade do Porto*	BIELEFELD, EBSCO, ERIHPLUS, JURN, QUALIS, RCAAP, PROQUEST	1	1
2022	*Journal of African Foreign Affairs*	AHCI, IBSS, SCI, SSCI, SciELO	1	1
2022	*Politikon: The IAPSS Journal of Political Science*	DOAJ, ERIHPLUS, WoS	1	1
2022	*Afro-Ásia*	DOAJ, ERIHPLUS, LATINDEX, QUALIS	1	1
2022	*e-journal of Portuguese History*	ERIHPLUS, SCOPUS	1	2
2023	*Hoplos - Revista e Estudos Estratégicos e Relações Internacionais*	DOAJ, IBSS	1	1
2023	*African Journal of Terrorism and Insurgency Research*	IBSS, EBSCO, ERIHPLUS, SABINET	1	1
2023	*African Human Mobility Review*	AJOL, OAI	1	1
2023	*African Journal of Development Studies*	AJOL, SABINET, SSCI	1	1

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2023	*Accord. African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes Journal*	AJOL, IBSS	1	1
2023	*Global Change, Peace & Security*	ASAO, SCOPUS, WoS	1	1
2023	*Journal of Southern African Studies*	ASAO, ASSIA, SCOPUS	1	1
2024	*Boletim GeoÁfrica*	IBSS, LATINDEX	1	2
2024	*Revista Brasileira de Estudos Africanos*	BASE, DOAJ, EBSCO, ERIHPLUS, LATINDEX, QUALIS	1	1
2024	*Kronos. Southern African Histories*	AJOL, IBSS, SSCI	8	12
2025	*Recima21. Revista Científica Multidisciplinar*	QUALIS, SJIF	1	2
2025	*South African Journal of International Affairs*	AJOL, ASAO, WoS	1	3
2025	*Ethnic and Racial Studies*	ASSIA, ERIHPLUS, IBSS	1	1
2025	*Nordic Journal of African Studies*	DOAJ, SCOPUS, WoS	1	1

Among the 24 different journals reviewed, 7 are published in Portuguese—5 from Brazil (*Afro-Ásia*; Boletim GeoÁfrica; *Hoplos - Revista e Estudos Estratégicos e Relações Internacionais;* Revista Brasileira de Estudos Africanos; Recima21. Revista Científica Multidisciplinar), one from Mozambique (Síntese. Revista Moçambicana de Ciências Sociais e Filosofia), and another from Portugal (Sociologia. Revista da Faculdade de Letras da Universidade do Porto). In contrast, as expected, the predominant language remains English, with 16 journals edited in this dominant language of scientific publication. This includes 9 journals published in UK (African Journal of Terrorism and Insurgency Research; Journal of East African Studies; Small Wars & Insurgencies; Journal of African Foreign Affairs; Social Analysis: The International Journal of Anthropology; Global Change, Peace & Security; Journal of Southern African Studies; e-journal of Portuguese History; Ethnic and Racial Studies), 5 from South Africa (Politikon: The IAPSS Journal of Political Science; African Journal of Development Studies; Accord: African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes Journal; Kronos: Southern African Histories; South African Journal of International Affairs), one from the US (Clio: American Political Science Association), one from Finland (Nordic Journal of African Studies), and another produced collaboratively by institutions in Zimbabwe and South Africa (African Human Mobility Review).

It is also interesting to note that two of the journals mentioned have published thematic dossiers focusing on the conflict in Cabo Delgado. In 2021, the biannual journal *Síntese,* associated with the Faculty of Social Sciences and Philosophy at the Pedagogical University of Mozambique, released a special dossier entitled in Portuguese “Dossier Especial Terrorismo em Cabo Delgado”. This special issue includes five articles authored by five different writers. Furthermore, another extensive thematic dossier is available in the journal *Kronos: Southern African Histories,* published by the University of the Western Cape, which features eight articles contributed by twelve authors.

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In addition to the 36 academic articles, there are four books and seven book chapters studying the Cabo Delgado conflict indexed in the inventoried repertoires. This provides much simpler quantitative information that can be organized as follows:

Date	Type	Authors	Publisher	Place of Edition	Index
2019	Book	3	Instituto de Estudos Sociais e Económicos (IESE)	Maputo (Mozambique)	ASAO, LATINDEX
2020	Book chapter	3	Instituto de Estudos Sociais e Económicos (IESE)	Maputo (Mozambique)	ASAO, LATINDEX
2020	Book chapter	2	Instituto de Estudos Sociais e Económicos (IESE)	Maputo (Mozambique)	ASAO, LATINDEX
2020	Book chapter	1	Instituto de Estudos Sociais e Económicos (IESE)	Maputo (Mozambique)	ASAO, LATINDEX
2020	Book chapter	1	Instituto de Estudos Sociais e Económicos (IESE)	Maputo (Mozambique)	ASAO, LATINDEX
2020	Book chapter	1	Good Governance Africa (CGA)	Johannesburg (South Africa)	ASAO, IBSS, WoS
2021	Book	1	Escolar Editora	Maputo (Mozambique)	LATINDEX, OAI
2022	Book	35	Africa Institute for Culture, Peace, Dialogue & Tolerance Studies – Midlands State University	Harare (Zimbabwe)	ASAO, JURN, SSCI
2023	Book	1	Hurst	London (UK)	ASAO, IBSS, SSCI
2024	Book chapter	1	Routledge	London (UK)	ASAO, IBSS, JURN, SSCI, WoS
2024	Book chapter	3	Palgrave Macmillan	London (UK)	ASAO, IBSS, PROQUEST, WoS

Although the inventory comprises four books and seven book chapters, it is noteworthy that the total number of authors reaches an impressive 52. This situation underscores the importance of further identifying these authors, particularly since many have contributed multiple studies and published across various journals. The statistics are also impacted by 35 authors having their conference presentations compiled into a single book in 2022—a trend that has become increasingly rare, especially within the humanities and social sciences.

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Survey of academic research and publications 2:

Authors and their nationality, academic affiliation and quantitative contribution

This compilation of information allows us to comprehensively reconstruct the nationalities, academic affiliations, and publication counts of the various researchers contributing to this body of scientific work, based on the consulted academic indexes and the review of their respective publications. The following table is organized alphabetically by surname and patronymic, displaying academic identities alongside their publication tallies. In this inventory, (a) denotes an academic paper, (b) signifies an academic book, and (c) represents a book chapter.

Authorial name	Nationality	Academic institution or other	Number of publications
1. AMARAL, Giverage do	Mozambique	Universidade Técnica de Moçambique	1 (c)
2. ASANI, Jameel James	South Africa	University of Johannesburg	1 (c)
3. BARY, Ida	UK	Researchers for Peace and Development (REPAD)	1 (a)
4. BONATE, Liazzat	Trinidad and Tobago	Christian Michelsen Institute, Bergen (Norway)	2 (a)
5. BRASIL, Pedro Alexandre Penha	Brazil	Ministério das Relações Exteriores	1 (a)
6. BRITO, Luís de	Mozambique	Universidade Eduardo Mondlane	1 (c)
7. BUCHANAN-CLARKE, Sthephen	South Africa	Southern Africa Regional Office (SARO)	1 (c)
8. CAMBRÃO Pedrito	Mozambique	Universidade de Zambeze	1 (a)
9. CHAKAWA, Joshua	South Africa	National University of Lesotho	1 (c)
10. CHAMBE, Zacarias Milisse	Mozambique	University of Belfast	1 (a)
11. CHICHAVA, Sérgio	Mozambique	Instituto de Estudos Sociais e Económicos (IESE); Universidade Eduardo Mondlane	1 (c)
12. CHIMWARA, Oripha	Zimbabwe	University of Zimbabwe	1 (c)
13. CHIOTANA, Rosita	Mozambique	Universidade Católica de Moçambique	1 (a)
14. CORREIA, Milton M. M.	Mozambique	Universidade Pedagógica de Moçambique	1 (a)
15. DAGAMA, Luciana Vasco	Mozambique	Universidade Católica de Moçambique	1 (a)
16. DOMINGOS, Julião	Mozambique	Universidade de Nampula	1 (a)
17. MORIER-GENOUD, Eric	UK	Queen's University Belfast	1 (a), 1 (b)
18. FEIJÓ, João	Mozambique	Observatório do Meio Rural	1 (b), 2 (c)
19. FORQUILHA, Salvador	Mozambique	Universidade Eduardo Mondlane	1 (b) 1 (c)
20. GADZIKWA, Wellington	Zimbabwe	Africa University	1 (c)
21. GICHOHI, Wanjiru	Kenya	Kenyatta University	1 (c)
22. GUMBO, Bekezela	Zimbabwe	Africa University	1 (c)

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23. HABIBE, SAIDE	Sudan	University of Africa	1 (b)
24. HANSEN, Stiga	Norway	Norwegian University of Life Sciences	1 (a)
25. HASSANE, Aly Caetano Juma	Mozambique	Universidade Católica de Moçambique	1 (a)
26. HEYEN-DUBÉ, Thomas	UK	University of Oxford	1 (a)
27. HLONGWANA, James	Zimbabwe	Great Zimbabwe University	1 (c)
28. HOFISI, Sharon	South Africa	University of Pretoria	2 (c)
29. HUNGWE, Brian	South Africa	University of Witswatersrand	1 (c)
30. ISRAEL, Paolo	Italy	University of the Western Cape	3 (a)
31. JECHE, Valerie. R.	Zimbabwe	*Midlands State University*	1 (c)
32. KHAN, Khatija Bibi	South Africa	University of South Africa	1 (c)
33. KISHARA, Winnie	Kenya	*African Leadership Centre (ALC) in Nairobi*	1 (c)
34. LANGA, Ercílio Neves Brandão	Brazil	Universidade da Integração Internacional da Lusofonia Afro-Brasileira	1 (a)
35. LÁZARO, João Abílio	Mozambique	Universidade Aberta, ISCED Moçambique	1 (c)
36. LENTO, Mzukisi Jerry	South Africa	University of South Africa	1 (c)
37. MABUDUSHA, Angel	South Africa	University of South Africa	1 (c)
38. MAERESERA, Sadiki	South Africa	University of KwaZulu-Natal	1 (c)
39. MAKANDA, Joseph	South Africa	University KwaZulu-Natal	1 (a)
40. MAKONYE, Felix	South Africa	University KwaZulu-Natal	4 (a)
41. MAKWAMBENI, Blessing	South Africa	*Cape Peninsula University of Technology*	1 (c)
42. MAPFUMO, Linos	Zimbabwe	Zimbabwean Foreign Service	1 (c)
43. MASSIRI, Kudzai	Zimbabwe	Africa University	1 (a)
44. MASUKU, Mandla Mfundo	South Africa	University KwaZulu-Natal	1 (c)
45. MATSILELE, Trust	South Africa	*Birmingham City University*	1 (c)
46. MAVHINGA, Dewa †	Zimbabwe	Human Rights Watch	1 (c)
47. MIAMBO, Aurélio	Mozambique	Universidade Pedagógica de Moçambique	1 (a)
48. MIGUEL, Dília Vaz	Mozambique	Universidade Católica de Moçambique	1 (a)
49. MISSELL, Daniel	Mozambique	Instituto de Ciências Sociais, Universidade de Lisboa	1 (a)
50. MLAMBO, Daniel Nkosinathi	South Africa	Technological University of Pretoria	1 (c)
51. MLAMBO, Victor H.	South Africa	University of Johannesburg	1 (c)
52. MOFFAT, Craig	South Africa	Programme at Good Governance Africa (Johannesburg)	1 (c)
53. MOKGONYANA, Karabo	Zimbabwe	African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes	1 (a)
54. MUDE, Torque	Namibia	University of Namibia	1 (c)
55. NEMAKONDE, Mpfariseni Budeli	South Africa	University of Cape Town	1 (c)

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56. NGOENHA, Severino	Mozambique	Universidade Pedagógica de Moçambique	1 (c)
57. NGUJA, Constâncio	Mozambique	Universidade Pedagógica de Moçambique	1 (a)
58. NHERERA, Tapiwa	South Africa	University of Ankara	1 (c)
59. NHUMAIO, Alcido	Mozambique	Universidade do Save, Moçambique	1 (c)
60. NOOR, Salih O.	South Africa	University of Chicago	1 (a)
61. NYAWO, Vongai Zvidenga	Zimbabwe	Great Zimbabwe University	1 (c)
62. ORRE, Aslak	Mozambique	Observatório do Meio Rural	1 (a)
63. PEDRO, Martinho	Mozambique	Universidade Pedagógica de Moçambique	1 (a)
64. PEREIRA, Dulce	Mozambique	Universidade Licungo de Moçambique	1 (a)
65. PEREIRA, João	Mozambique	Universidade Eduardo Mondlane	1 (b) 1 (c)
66. PHERUDI, Mokete	South Africa	South African State Security Agency	1 (a)
67. RANDS, Richard	UK	Acumen Intelligent Consulting	1 (a)
68. ROSARIO, Carmeliza	Mozambique	Christian Michelsen Institute, Bergen (Norway)	2 (a)
69. RUHANYA, Pedzisai	Zimbabwe	University of Zimbabwe	1 (c)
70. RUSERO, Alexander	Zimbabwe	Africa University	1 (a)
71. RWAFA, Urther	Zimbabwe	*Midlands State University*	1 (c)
72. SAMBO, Usman	Nigeria	Yobe State University	1 (c)
73. SANTOS, Ana Margarida Sousa	Portugal	Durham University	2 (a)
74. SAUROMBE, Amos	South Africa	University of South Africa	1 (c)
75. SHAVA, Piniel Viriri	Lesotho	National University of Lesotho	1 (c)
76. SHIELD, Ralph	US	Naval War College	1 (a)
77. SITHOLE, Tinashe	South Africa	University of Johannesburg	1 (a)
78. SULE, Babayo	Lesotho	National University of Lesotho	1 (c)
79. TOFA, Moses	South Africa	University of Johannesburg	2 (c)
80. TSANDZANA, Dércio	Mozambique	Universidade Eduardo Mondlane	1 (c)
81. VAMBE, Beauty	South Africa	University of South Africa	2 (c)
82. VAMBE, Maurice	South Africa	University of South Africa	1 (c)
83. VELTHUIZEN, Andreas	South Africa	University of South Africa	1 (c)
84. VIRIR, Advice	South Africa	University of South Africa	1 (c)

This collection boasts contributions from 84 authors, highlighting its importance; however, the research and publication framework warrants further examination. Among these contributors, a disappointing 11 (13.09%) are women, a statistic that mirrors the prevailing social and cultural contexts, as well as the demographic reality of academic institutions in Africa, where only 13% of academics are women (Diab; Bulani; Mukeshimana, 2024, p. 138-159). Representation from Europe is limited, with only five researchers included, and merely one from the United States, raising concerns about a lack of engagement. Furthermore, there are just two researchers from

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South America, both from Brazil. Notably absent are researchers from any Asian country, despite China, India, South Korea, Japan, Thailand, and Singapore being significant trade partners of Mozambique, involved in ongoing investments, cooperation projects, and aid initiatives.

To quantify the contributions of the 84 authors showcased, we can summarize their nationalities in descending order: 28 (33.3%) hail from South Africa; 24 (28.5%) from Mozambique; 13 (15.4%) from Zimbabwe; and 4 from the United Kingdom. Additionally, there are 2 each from Lesotho, Kenya and Brazil, and 1 each from Italy, Namibia, Nigeria, Norway, Portugal, Sudan, Trinidad and Tobago, and the US. In the case of Portugal, figures are particularly striking given Portugal's historical role as a former colonial power, where only one sociology journal has published an article authored by two researchers from Mozambican universities. This indicates a significant decline in research output and publications from Portugal in recent decades compared to the colonial period—especially between the 1950s and 1970s—when a diverse array of scientific works, many of which are still regarded as seminal today, were produced (Cahen, 2020, p. 249-267). Even more surprising is the total absence of researchers from Tanzania, a neighboring country that has been accused by some sectors of the popular Mozambican press of inciting terrorist insurrection, yet no research contributions from there have been received (Chichava, 2020, p. 430-433). Consequently, universities in South Africa, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe are leading the way in publishing academic research on this topic, reflecting their shared affiliation within the Southern African region. However, considering that the Southern African Development Community (SADC) comprises 15 member states, it becomes evident that notable gaps persist in this area. This leads to a critical question: are these prevalent research absences due to a lack of interest, insufficient regional cooperation, or significant challenges in securing funding for scientific inquiry?

The major public universities in South Africa and Zimbabwe are well represented in the inventory, but the situation in Mozambique is different. The Pedagogical University and Eduardo Mondlane University each contribute five authors, while the Catholic University has four. Licungo University—formerly associated with the Pedagogical University—along with the University of Nampula, the Technical University, the University of Save, the University of Zambeze, and the private Open University, each add one author. This reflects a somewhat limited participation from researchers affiliated with public universities, which is particularly surprising given that Eduardo Mondlane University is Mozambique's largest and most prestigious institution, hosting over 40,000 students. Among the four additional Mozambican researchers who have published on Cabo Delgado, two are associated with foreign universities, while the other two are based at the “Observatório do Mundo Rural” (Rural Observatory Institute). This scenario highlights the challenges in fostering research on this critical issue within public universities and research institutions, a topic that deserves further exploration.

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It is crucial to emphasize that this survey was conducted using criteria that are both practical and attainable, reflecting a process increasingly recognized by academic institutions that prioritize indexes, rankings, and similar metrics over educational, social, and civic service. This acknowledgment continues despite ongoing critiques regarding the implications of such practices for the commodification of higher education and scientific research (Giroux, 2009, p. 669-695; Gupta; Brooks; Abrahams, 2025, p. 174-191). Consequently, it is vital to understand that the data gathered from these databases should not be regarded uncritically as definitive indicators of quality, nor should they be seen as accurate representations of scientific or social and civic impacts. This assumption is often misguided, particularly in relation to research on the conflict in Cabo Delgado. Within the vast array of news articles, opinion pieces, and reports available across digital and social media, there exists a wealth of significant texts and documents—many authored by academics and researchers who opt for public engagement over peer recognition. Thus, there is a pressing need for more comprehensive research into media and digital publications, which should encompass reports and outputs from international organizations and NGOs actively working on the ground. This approach would facilitate the identification of alternative channels for information dissemination and allow for a more thorough analysis of the insurgency and terrorism in the Cabo Delgado province. Given the potentially extensive volume of data involved, this endeavor cannot be accomplished through individual efforts alone; it requires the mobilization of a larger team of researchers and their associated resources.

Survey of academic research and publications 3:

Summarizing indexed academic papers

The comprehensive inventory of articles, books, and book chapters has yielded a thorough collection that enables detailed consultations of these publications. Summaries of the works have been organized to present the principal research findings in chronological order, with a primary emphasis on academic papers. Notably, by 2020, articles published in journals indexed within the reviewed repertoires began to appear, including significant contributions from Professor Felix Makonye of the University of KwaZulu-Natal, who is recognized as a leading expert on the Cabo Delgado uprising. His inaugural work, published in the *African Journal of Terrorism and Insurgency Research*, is titled "The Cabo Delgado Insurgency in Mozambique: Origin, Ideology, Recruitment Strategies, and Social, Political, and Economic Implications for Natural Gas and Oil Exploration." Employing the Human Needs Theory (HNT) as its theoretical framework, this article offers a comprehensive analysis of the insurgency and the terrorist activities taking place in Cabo Delgado province, attributed to the ASWJ. Makonye's research explores the origins and ideological foundations of the group, examining its affiliations and potential supporters while analyzing both

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local and international jihadist recruitment strategies. Importantly, the article considers the economic ramifications of the insurgency in light of Cabo Delgado's recently discovered substantial natural gas reserves and other mineral wealth. The study highlights ASWJ's recruitment practices, which include both voluntary adherence from its religious followers and coercive tactics targeting the local population, emphasizing the considerable threat the insurgency poses to Mozambique's economic and social stability (Makonye, 2020, p. 59-72).

Still in 2020, Eric Morier-Genoud, a professor of African History at Queen's University of Belfast, published an insightful paper in the *Journal of Eastern African Studies* titled “The Jihadi Insurgency in Mozambique: Origins, Nature, and Beginning.” The author indicates that Mozambique has been grappling with an insurgency in its northern province of Cabo Delgado for the past three years, amidst considerable confusion and debate regarding the situation. The article poses critical questions: “Who are the insurgents, what do they want, and where do they come from?” It highlights that discussions have primarily centered on the role of religion and the external aspects of the insurgency. However, drawing on fieldwork conducted in 2018 and 2019, the paper reveals that the insurgents are part of an Islamist sect that emerged about a decade ago and transitioned to armed jihadism in the mid-2010s. This finding challenges hasty interpretations that directly and causally link the insurgency to the recent natural gas exploration projects at the mouth of the Rovuma River (Morier-Genoud, 2020, p. 396-412).

In early 2021, Salih O. Noor, a researcher at the University of Chicago, published an article titled “Colonialism, Marginality, and Path Dependence in Cabo Delgado” in the *Clio* journal of the American Political Science Association. The paper advocates for a historical interpretation of the Cabo Delgado conflict, emphasizing that the region’s delayed socioeconomic development has fostered violent policies stemming from its historical marginalization and neglect as a colonial periphery during the late colonial period—a legacy of earlier centuries of plunder and colonial rule. Noor places significant emphasis on the historical roots of poverty as the primary catalyst for the insurgency, noting the region's unique history of violent resource extraction, including the slave trade, as well as its considerable susceptibility to external influences from Muslim traders operating in the Indian Ocean. This particular dynamic distinguishes Cabo Delgado from other areas in Central and Northern Mozambique that experience similar socioeconomic delays and social compositions (Noor, 2021, p. 9-12).

In 2021, Ana Margarida Sousa Santos, a professor in the Department of Anthropology at Durham University in England, published an article titled “Violence, Rumor, and Elusive Trust in Mocímboa da Praia, Mozambique” in *Social Analysis: The International Journal of Anthropology.* The riots that occurred in Mocímboa da Praia in 2005, alongside the ongoing violent terrorist attacks in Cabo Delgado province, have given rise to a multitude of unsettling rumors. This paper revisits these riots and their aftermath to help interpret the rumors that have emerged since then,

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which exacerbates fears surrounding violence and uncertainty. These troubling rumors offer deep insights into perceptions of the political 'Other' and the narratives that emerge after instances of violence. The author explores the elusive nature of trust in the wake of sudden violence and examines how rumors serve as impediments to fostering peaceful relationships of trust. Ultimately, Santos underscores the importance of considering the politics of suspicion in Mozambique within the context of the current insurgency in Cabo Delgado, particularly regarding how rumors influence dynamics of trust and mistrust (Santos, 2021, p. 44-66).

In May 2021, Thomas Heyen-Dubé, a professor at the University of Oxford, and Richard Rands, a researcher at Acumen Intelligent Consulting in London, published a study in the open-access journal *Small Wars & Insurgencies* titled “Evolving Doctrine and Modus Operandi: Violent Extremism in Cabo Delgado.” This article underscores the significant knowledge gaps surrounding the ASJW group, indicating considerable confusion within academic circles about the nature of violent extremists and their affiliations with the broader global Salafi-jihadist community. By examining the theological foundations of the insurgency in Cabo Delgado, the authors conclude that these militants do not conform to Salafi-jihadist ideologies or mainstream theological perspectives. Instead, they should be viewed as challengers to the established order. Their struggle is fundamentally a contest against state authorities, seeking enhanced political and religious representation, as well as greater socioeconomic benefits for the Cabo Delgado region (Heyen-Dubé; Rands, 2021, p. 1-30).

In July 2021, the referred insightful “Special Dossier on Terrorism in Cabo Delgado” was published in the biannual journal *Síntese,* produced by the Faculty of Social Sciences and Philosophy at the Pedagogical University of Mozambique. The dossier features a compelling study by Mozambican researcher Dulce Pereira from Licungo University, titled "We and Them in Cabo Delgado" (Pereira, 2021, p. 8-25). Pereira’s analysis posits a dichotomy within Cabo Delgado, delineating the concepts of 'self' (the numerator) and 'other' (the denominator). Here, the 'self' embodies the aspiration for a counterpart that reflects its own image, resulting in a dynamic in which the self (identified as 'we') acts as the paternal figure to the other (identified as 'them'). This interplay is deeply rooted in Mozambique's historical, social, political, and ideological fabric. Drawing on Greek mythology, Eros symbolizes elements such as love, vitality, and desire—the pleasurable aspects—while Thanatos epitomizes the darker forces of destruction, isolation, and mortality. In the context of Mozambican cultural interpretation, the pleasure principle aligns with the notions of the 'other' as friend, adherent, or subordinate, indicating a form of collective well-being within a given civilization. Conversely, the principle of destruction connects with Xiconhoca, representing the 'other-not-ours,' which embodies societal malaise and unrest. Pereira's work navigates the tensions intrinsic to the insurrection in Cabo Delgado, illustrating the coexistence of Eros and Thanatos—both principles require an “other” as a symbolic trophy, whether this serves

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constructive or destructive purposes. The 'other' occupies a paradoxical position at the intersection of self-identity, becoming both a victim of love and hatred within the operational theater of conflict. This 'trophy' takes the form of an impersonal, deindividualized entity—what Pereira refers to as the libido-other or algorithm-other—serving as a reflective surface through which societal psychopathologies can be examined. Ultimately, the analysis concludes that "At the heart of Cabo Delgado lies a logic of we and them, us and them. Analyzing and understanding the logic of we and them in Cabo Delgado may be relevant to this equation" (Pereira, 2021, p. 22). This exploration of identity dynamics offers a crucial framework for comprehending the ongoing complexities and conflicts within the region.

Building on the *Síntese*'s dossier, we continue with a compelling text by Aurélio Miambo, a professor at the Pedagogical University of Mozambique, titled "From Burnt Earth to Refuge City: Analyzing the Challenges of Integration and the Functional Invisibility of Displaced People in Pemba". Miambo argues that since the rise of the "internally displaced" phenomenon in Cabo Delgado, the management of this issue has been characterized by ambiguity. Responses from Mozambican authorities have varied, shifting between a focus on security measures and a growing concern for humanitarian issues. The attack on Palma on March 24, 2021, further complicated the already difficult management of displaced individuals. As a result, this work critically examines the effectiveness of the displacement management model adopted by Mozambican authorities, particularly in light of the evident challenges in developing a coherent strategy for addressing the presence of displaced people in Cabo Delgado's provincial capital (Miambo, 2021, p. 26-39).

This timely dossier follows with a study by Martinho Pedro, a professor at the Pedagogical University of Mozambique, titled "Formation of Territorialities in Eccentric Contexts as a Catalyzing Factor of Conflict in Cabo Delgado". The paper examines how the region that now comprises Cabo Delgado Province has experienced diverse territorialities over the past two millennia, which have harbored latent antagonisms. These territorialities, shaped by an eccentric context, have contributed to the emergence of volatile sociocultural dynamics. Moreover, the capitalization of these diverse territorialities—promoted by external agents through the manipulation of local cultural elements and processes—has resonated with local actors, intensifying the conflict. This situation, rather than being characterized as an insurgency, appears more akin to terrorism, driven by predatory motives rather than political ones (Pedro, 2021, p. 41-59).

The dossier then transitions to the work of Milton M. M. Correia, another professor at the Pedagogical University of Mozambique, who explores "Capitalism and Terrorism in Cabo Delgado: Violence as Language". In this article, the author contends that the violence in Cabo Delgado remains a complex interplay of political, economic, cultural, and religious factors. Despite the religious rhetoric often found in media portrayals, this piece posits that the discourse surrounding the issue is, in fact, violence itself—specifically, the language of capitalist accumulation invoked by

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what is termed an insurgency. Although the historical context of this phenomenon, particularly its economic aspects, may be obscure, the discursive absence of a rationale for the brutality, combined with its global implications, suggests that violence in Cabo Delgado is commodified. This assertion becomes crucial for analyzing the situation, as the lack of a dialogical and political discourse—when contrasted with the "fundamentalist" narrative—is not merely coincidental, but rather a significant symptom of the historical dissonance between accumulation and popular consciousness. Consequently, the brutality involved, while inadvertently trivializing the purported religiosity, is both inherent to and instrumental in the absence of political and religious acknowledgment (Correia, 2021, p. 60-76).

This Special Dossier on Terrorism in Cabo Delgado, published by *Síntese*, concludes with a paper by Constâncio Nguja, a PhD candidate in Contemporary African History at the Pedagogical University of Maputo. His work, titled "Understanding the Conflict in Cabo Delgado from a Historical-Diplomatic Perspective" presents a comprehensive analysis of the ongoing attacks by unidentified armed groups in Cabo Delgado province, northern Mozambique (Nguja, 2021, p. 77-98). These groups have been characterized by defense and security forces as cells of international terrorist organizations. While this phenomenon of violence is not new to Mozambique, it has taken on a distinct form in Cabo Delgado since independence. Society has been grappling with questions surrounding the causes, origins, potential solutions, and the roles of various stakeholders, particularly local, provincial, and central governments. Nguja's article seeks to provide a diplomatic lens through which to examine the conflict in this province. He concludes that achieving "positive peace" would be a viable response to terrorism in Cabo Delgado. Drawing on Galtung's concept, he emphasizes that positive peace encompasses more than just the absence of direct violence; it seeks to establish structural peace by addressing inequalities perpetuated by the socioeconomic system, eliminating cultural violence, and fostering societal integration at all levels (Nguja, 2021, p. 96).

In 2022, Pedrito Cambrão, a researcher at the University of Zambezi, and Julião Domingos, a professor at the University of Nampula, published a study in the journal *Sociologia da Faculdade de Letras da Universidade do Porto* titled "Cabo Delgado: (un)known fratricidal war? Causes and internal implications from an anthroposociological perspective". Spanning 17 pages, the two Mozambican scholars examine the findings from semi-structured interviews conducted with refugees from Cabo Delgado, who were welcomed in the neighboring Nampula Province. Their research reveals that internal issues are at the root of this conflict, challenging the prevalent narratives that emphasize external factors. Key implications identified include the erosion of family unity and cultural practices, the rise in extreme poverty, and the trauma experienced by the affected communities. The study further concludes that addressing the insurgency in Cabo Delgado hinges on the government's commitment to invest in local communities, tackle systemic

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poverty, and uphold the economic, social, and cultural rights of its residents (Cambrão; Domingos, 2022, p. 67-84).

Liazzat Bonate is currently serving as the Principal Researcher on the Cabo Delgado crisis within the research project titled “God, Grievance, and Greed? Understanding Northern Mozambique’s New Islamist War” at the Christian Michelsen Institute, University of Bergen, Norway. In 2022, she published her first paper on this topic in Portuguese in the journal *Afro-Ásia*, entitled “Jihadismo Transnacional e a Insurgência em Cabo Delgado, Moçambique” (Transnational Jihadism and the Insurgency in Cabo Delgado, Mozambique). This article examines the Cabo Delgado conflict through the lens of transnational jihadism—an ideology and political movement that capitalizes on local demands and grievances, particularly those directed at the state, thereby triggering the insurgency or amplifying existing discontent. The conflict also embodies a form of resistance against the Western-dominated global order. The first section of the article delves into the concept and historical development of transnational jihadism, emphasizing the evolution of its ideology and actions, as well as its geographic spread. The second section assesses the sociopolitical and economic circumstances in Cabo Delgado that contributed to the emergence of the insurgency, underscoring the resistance against the Mozambican state and Western hegemony manifested through extractivism driven by transnational corporations that have established operations in the region since 2010 (Bonate, 2022, p. 519-553).

In November 2022, the aforementioned Felix Makonye from the University of KwaZulu-Natal edited a study published in the *Journal of African Foreign Affairs* titled "Dissecting the Franco-Rwandese Alliance in Southern Africa: The Case of Cabo Delgado, Mozambique" This article examines the alliance between France and Rwanda in their efforts to combat terrorism and the Islamic insurgency in Cabo Delgado province. It aims to shed light on French national interests in the exploration of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and oil in Mozambique, highlighting how this alliance with Rwanda helps mobilize troops to safeguard those interests. The article seeks to challenge the prevailing narrative that attributes the mismanagement of African natural resources solely to local governments, while often overlooking the role of Western nations in the exploitation of these resources. The findings of this research demonstrate that French multinational companies, alongside other Western entities, are reaping substantial profits from LNG and oil exploration in Cabo Delgado, all while the local population grapples with stark poverty and high unemployment rates (Makonye, 2022, p. 161-172).

In 2022, researcher Tinashe Sithole from the University of Johannesburg published an article in the political science journal *Politikon* titled "The Political Economy of Mozambique's Cabo Delgado Insurgency and its Impact on Southern Africa's Regional Security". This paper examines the political and economic dimensions of the Cabo Delgado insurgency in Mozambique and its implications for the regional security of the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

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The conflict has underscored SADC's susceptibility to Islamic extremism. While Southern Africa generally enjoys a relative peace compared to other regions on the continent, studies of intrastate conflicts suggest that the Cabo Delgado situation is likely to extend to nearby countries. The study contends that SADC should take proactive measures by providing humanitarian and military assistance, including the training and deployment of military personnel, to restore peace and security in Mozambique. It further argues that the consequences of inaction have exacerbated the conflict, as evidenced by the ongoing humanitarian crisis. Without SADC's commitment to send military personnel and training, there remains a significant risk that the conflict will spill over into vulnerable neighboring countries, potentially destabilizing the entire region (Sithole; 2022, p. 4-29).

Also in 2022, Mozambican researchers Salvador Forquilha and João Pereira published a study titled “Migration Dynamics and the Making of the Jihadi Insurgency in Northern Mozambique” in the *e-journal of Portuguese History*. This article is based on extensive fieldwork carried out in the Cabo Delgado, Nampula, and Niassa Provinces, and it explores the connections between migration patterns and the emergence of the jihadi insurgency in Northern Mozambique. The authors argue that the insurgency has leveraged both external and internal migration dynamics to establish a broad recruitment network for ASJW. This recruitment has been significantly facilitated by the porous border with Tanzania and the active fishing industry along the islands of Cabo Delgado's coastline. The paper delves into the intense cross-border interactions between Mozambique and Tanzania, highlighting how these have been exploited by ASJW for recruitment purposes. Additionally, it underscores the longstanding tradition of migration in Northern Mozambique, particularly from coastal districts in Nampula (such as Angoche, Mossuril, Ilha de Moçambique, Nacala-a-Porto, Nacala-a-Velha, and Memba) to Cabo Delgado coastal areas (notably Macomia, Mocímboa da Praia, and Palma), which have historically been linked to fishing activities. Many young individuals recruited from the coastal districts of Nampula to join ASJW have been lured by the prospect of finding employment in the fisheries of Macomia, Mocímboa da Praia, or Palma, mirroring patterns of migration seen in the past (Forquilha; Pereira, 2022, p. 132–153).

In 2023, Pedro Alexandre Penha Brasil, a researcher and diplomat at the Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, published an article in the journal *Hoplos* titled "Terrorism or Insurgency? Theoretical Reflection on the Nature of the Armed Conflict in Cabo Delgado". The author asserts that the intricate and multifaceted armed conflict in Cabo Delgado represents one of the foremost international security challenges of our era. He argues that the conflict exhibits characteristics of both insurgency and terrorism. To support this conclusion, Brasil examines key theoretical academic sources related to these concepts and outlines the conflict's evolution since 2017. His quantitative research, utilizing data from the Global Terrorism Database, ultimately reveals the

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presence of both terrorism and insurgency elements in the recorded incidents in Cabo Delgado (Brasil, 2023, p. 125-147).

Karabo Mokgonyana, a professor and researcher at the University of the Witwatersrand in South Africa, published her study titled "Africa's Responsibility to Protect: The Cabo Delgado Dilemma" in the *African Journal of Terrorism and Insurgency Research* in 2023. In her work, Mokgonyana highlights that the ongoing interstate military instability has resulted in severe human rights violations, leaving the Mozambican government with limited capacity to protect civilians and provide essential services and basic necessities. The situation is especially critical for civilians, who predominantly include individuals displaced by conflict, families still recovering from Cyclone Kenneth in 2019, and vulnerable women and children. Although the Mozambican government has made efforts in recent years to combat the violence by deploying the Mozambique Defense and Security Forces, it has faced significant challenges in preventing human rights abuses due to continuous attacks by Islamist militants. Consequently, there is mounting pressure on the African Union (AU), the Southern African Development Community (SADC), and the international community to intervene with humanitarian assistance, which should involve neighboring countries like South Africa and Tanzania (Mokgonyana, 2023, p. 79-94).

Also in 2023, Joseph Makanda, a researcher at the University of Johannesburg in South Africa, published an article in the *African Human Mobility Review* titled "South Africa's Counterinsurgency in Cabo Delgado: Examining the Role of Mozambican Migrants to Establish a People-Centric Approach". This original work critiques the predominant studies on terrorism in Cabo Delgado, which primarily focus on the nature and causes of the insurgency, the identity and origins of the insurgents, the underlying needs of local populations, and the effectiveness of current military operations from a state-centric perspective. As a result, the impact of non-state actors, particularly migrants, has often been neglected. Utilizing counterinsurgency theory, the article argues for the incorporation of Mozambican migrants' viewpoints in counterinsurgency strategies in Cabo Delgado, advocating for a non-military, people-centered approach. By understanding the perspectives of these migrants, we can gain valuable insights into the factors that sustain the insurgency in Mozambique. The article thus calls for further empirical research that emphasizes the often-overlooked role of migrants through a non-military, people-focused lens (Makanda, 2023, p. 55-76).

In 2023, Ralph Shield published a noteworthy paper titled "The Sources of Rwandan Military Effectiveness: State Building, Security Assistance and the Cabo Delgado Campaign" in the *Journal of Southern African Studies.* According to the author, Rwanda's military intervention in mid-2021 significantly diminished the capabilities of the jihadist insurgents operating in northern Mozambique. The early successes on the battlefield were attributed to a combination of factors, including a well-suited operational concept, strong infantry skills, and high combat motivation.

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However, these attributes stemmed more from Rwanda's institutional history and internal state-building efforts than from foreign-provided equipment or training. While external assistance facilitated the intervention, it did not fundamentally instill the key drivers of Rwandan combat effectiveness. Given the distinct circumstances in Mozambique, the likelihood that the Rwandan armed forces can successfully impart their counter-insurgency capabilities to their Mozambican counterparts appears bleak. The Cabo Delgado campaign offers only a limited affirmation of American security cooperation and highlights significant constraints on Western counterterrorism strategies that rely on African proxies (Shield, 2023, p. 1041-1065).

In the concluding months of 2023, Mokete Pherudi, a research analyst at the South African State Security Agency, published a paper titled “Reflections on SAMIM Withdrawal from Cabo Delgado: Reasons and Implications” in the journal *Global Change, Peace & Security.* The article highlights how the Mozambican government has inadvertently contributed to the ongoing conflict in Cabo Delgado by overlooking early warning signs and dismissing them as mere ‘banditry,’ thereby absolving itself of responsibility. The author examines the initiatives undertaken by the Mozambican government and assesses their effectiveness in addressing the threats posed by the Al-Shabaab insurgency in Mozambique (ASWJ). After two years, Mozambique sought assistance from the Southern African Development Community (SADC), which intervened in July 2021. The article delves into the reasons behind SADC's delayed response to the crisis. It also explores the rationale for intervention and the mandate of the SADC Mission to Mozambique (SAMIM). Furthermore, the paper discusses the motivations for SAMIM's withdrawal from Cabo Delgado, linking this development to the prospects for sustaining peace and stability in the region. Indeed, the conclusion of SAMIM’s mandate and its withdrawal in August 2023 has enabled the insurgency to regain momentum, alongside a certain level of territorial dominance and operational presence in areas such as the Macomia and Quissanga districts. This resurgence poses a potential threat for further attacks in central and southern districts. The insights gained from the SAMIM experience are identified as potentially valuable for future deployments by SADC and the African Union (AU) in the region and beyond (Pherudi, 2023, p. 147-159).

In late 2023, our esteemed researcher and professor at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, Felix Makonye, edited another compelling article in the *African Journal of Development Studies* titled “Critiquing the Scramble for Mozambique’s Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and Oil by Foreign Powers: A Case Study of Cabo Delgado Province”. This paper critiques the race among foreign powers—such as France, the United States, Italy, Japan, and South Africa—to exploit Mozambique’s liquefied natural gas (LNG) and oil resources in Cabo Delgado province. It underscores that these foreign interests primarily seek their own gain, using the resource curse theory as a foundational framework. The study's findings indicate that while foreign entities are profiting immensely from the exploitation of Mozambique's natural gas and oil industries, the local

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inhabitants of Cabo Delgado Province remain trapped in a cycle of entrenched poverty, compounded by the challenges brought about by the extremist Islamic insurgency (Makonye, 2023, p. 365-376). Later in the same year, Felix Makonye published another article in the *African Journal of Terrorism and Insurgency Research,* titled "Southern African Development Community (SADC) Interventions and Ansa al Sunna Insurgency: The Case of Cabo Delgado Province, Mozambique". This research elucidates that while SADC has achieved notable successes in containing the insurgency and terrorism in Cabo Delgado, it also reveals that these outcomes have led to divisions among SADC member states. These rifts arise from differing perspectives on how best to address the insurgency and terrorism, resulting in negative repercussions for the counterinsurgency efforts (Makonye, 2023, p. 43-55).

In December 2023, the journal *Accord,* published by the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes at the University of Durban, South Africa, featured a collaborative study by Alexander Rusero and Kudzai Massiri, researchers from the University of Africa, Zimbabwe. Their paper, titled "Regionalism and the Fight Against Terrorism in Southern Africa: Reflections on Cabo Delgado in Mozambique", explores the evolving dynamics of regional security in the context of the insurgency and terrorism affecting northern Mozambique. Historically, post-independence Africa has depicted Southern Africa as a resilient region, largely insulated from Islamist insurgencies and terrorism. However, recent developments over the past five years have exposed the limitations of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) in effectively addressing terrorist threats. Factors such as relatively weak states struggling with regional collaboration, ethnic and religious diversity, widespread poverty, and the existence of "ungoverned spaces" contribute to the region's vulnerability to insurgent groups. The recent terrorist incursions into Mozambique's Cabo Delgado province have raised serious concerns regarding regional stability. The military interventions by the Southern African Development Community Mission in Mozambique (SAMIM) and Rwanda provide a valuable opportunity for scholars to explore regional perspectives on peace and security. This article employs data from a qualitative study focused on terrorism, counterterrorism, and regionalism to examine the concept of regional security cooperation within the SADC and to evaluate the effectiveness of institutional responses in northern Mozambique. The study concludes that the establishment of SAMIM, despite facing various challenges, represents a significant advancement. Furthermore, the development of sustainable security institutions is seen as a foundational step toward achieving meaningful regional security cooperation and enhancing regional economic integration (Rusero; Maisiri, 2023, p. 1-21).

As we look ahead to 2024, Mozambican researchers Aly Caetano Juma Hassane and Dília Vaz Miguel from the Catholic University of Mozambique published a study in the *GeoÁfrica* Bulletin titled "The Contribution of Peacebuilding and Social Cohesion Projects to the Promotion of

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Socioeconomic Development in Cabo Delgado: The Case of Coeso I in the Metuge District". This research addresses key themes within the field of "peacekeeping studies" and focuses on a case study conducted in the Metuge district, particularly in light of the influx of displaced individuals from Cabo Delgado. It emphasizes the resulting pressures on public services and the intensification of ethnic conflicts within the resettlement centers. The study highlights the COESO I program, which has significantly contributed to the district's socioeconomic development by advocating for the fundamental rights and freedoms of citizens and proposing effective strategies for accepting and integrating refugees (Hassane; Miguel, 2024, p. 38-61).

In the same year, Brazilian researcher Ercílio Neves Brandão Langa, affiliated with the *Universidade da Integração Internacional da Lusofonia Afro-Brasileira* (University of International Integration of Afro-Brazilian Lusophony) published in Portuguese a paper titled "Mozambique: Violent Extremism and Terrorism in Cabo Delgado Province" in the "Revista Brasileira de Estudos Africanos" (Brazilian Journal of African Studies). This article examines the issue of terrorism in Cabo Delgado Province, aiming to deepen the understanding of the conflict by exploring youth radicalization processes and identifying its causes through various typologies and analytical frameworks. The study employs qualitative methodology, complemented by a literature review and documentary research, utilizing theories such as Huntington's clash of civilizations, Ted Gurr's relative deprivation, and Mary Kaldor's concept of new wars. What factors have made Mozambique the latest epicenter of violent religious extremism and terrorism in Sub-Saharan Africa? Three primary perspectives—domestic, international, and the resource curse—help explain the origins of the conflict. Alongside religious dynamics, competition over natural and mineral resources is a significant driver of the unrest, resulting in substantial shifts in both domestic and foreign policy. This has led the government to align itself more closely with authoritarian and dictatorial regimes across Africa and Europe. In response to the ineffectiveness of national defense and security forces, the State has internationalized the conflict by permitting the involvement of private military companies and foreign armies, thereby escalating militarization and creating a complex web of interventions within the country (Langa, 2024, p. 95-123).

In May 2024, Liazzat Bonate and Carmeliza Rosario from the Christian Michelsen Institute at the University of Bergen in Norway, along with Paolo Israel, a researcher at the University of the Western Cape in South Africa, published a joint study titled "God, Grievance, and Greed: War in Cabo Delgado, Mozambique" in the journal *Kronos: Southern African Histories.* This particular issue is dedicated to the insurgency in Cabo Delgado. The article aims to provide both historical context and ethnographic depth to the analysis of the conflict, emphasizing its multifaceted nature and the social and human dimensions involved, while amplifying the voices of those affected by the turmoil. The study establishes a comprehensive chronology of the conflict, offers an overview of Cabo Delgado's complex history, reviews existing literature on the insurgency, and situates these

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events within local dynamics—such as capitalist extraction, the erosion of democratic processes, youth marginalization, and ethnic conflict—while also addressing the rise of global jihadism in East Africa (Bonate; Israel; Rosario, 2024, p. 1-23).

Liazzat Bonate has also contributed another study to this special issue of *Kronos,* titled "The Jihadi Insurgency in Cabo Delgado: Ideology, Protagonists, and Causes". The article begins with an overview of the historical evolution of Islam in Mozambique, alongside the broader context of global transnational jihadism. It further delves into the context, ideology, and key figures that have both initiated and sustained the insurgency in Cabo Delgado. This research is grounded in two fieldworks conducted in September–October and December 2023, during which Muslims from the insurgency-affected districts—Palma, Mocímboa da Praia, Macomia, Quissanga, and others—who are now internally displaced in the city of Pemba were interviewed. The participants span various generations, from a 25-year-old to an 87-year-old, and were chosen based on their affiliation with the two predominant branches of Islam in the region: Sufis, specifically those aligned with the Qadiriyya and Shadhuliyya Sufi Orders; and Salafis, which encompass followers of the Islamic Council of Mozambique, as well as individuals who have received religious training through the Africa Muslims Agency, an international Islamic NGO known for a more radical interpretation of Islam. Due to security restrictions, it was regrettably not possible to interview any insurgents. A primary aim of this article is to empower Muslims to express their own narratives, thus granting the reader insight into the perspectives from what is often considered the “other side” (Bonate, 2024, p. 1-27).

Carmeliza Rosario contributes individual research to this issue of *Kronos*, presenting a study titled “The Morality of Schooling: Women’s Education as an Arena for Social Tension in Cabo Delgado”. This paper examines the tensions between formal (state-sponsored) education and religious education within the context of the ongoing conflict in Cabo Delgado, a situation that has been acknowledged but remains poorly understood. Academic literature has frequently identified poverty and limited access to formal education as significant factors contributing to the disenfranchisement that has fostered violent extremism in the region. There are also mentions of how the insurgent movement has rejected formal education in favor of Islamic teachings. However, existing studies on the insurgents' dismissal of state-sponsored education—especially regarding girls—often overlook the historical tensions inherent in formal education itself. Through interviews that highlight women's relationships and experiences with both colonial and postcolonial states, it was found that Muslim communities in Cabo Delgado, particularly along the coast, harbor a longstanding distrust of state-sponsored education. This includes evidence of locally established practices in women's education that predate and run alongside formal educational systems. The conclusion drawn is that cultural and religious factors do not inhibit women's influence in society, particularly in the domain of education; rather, it hinges on their active engagement.

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Moreover, despite the risk of violent co-optation, the insurgent movement can leverage existing tensions—including those associated with state-sponsored education—within the context of conflict (Rosario, 2024, p. 1-21).

The *Kronos* dossier features also a solo study by Paolo Israel titled "Violence and the Voice Note: The War for Cabo Delgado in Social Media (Mozambique, 2020)". This study, reflecting on events from four years ago, presents an engaging photographic apparatus and examines the media's influence amid the rise of the Islamist insurgency in 2020. This surge was paralleled by the growing significance of social media as both a battlefield and a public forum. As insurgents looted and took control of major cities and district capitals, Web 2.0 networks—particularly Facebook and WhatsApp—emerged as the primary platforms for capturing and discussing the war. The text explores the intricate relationship between social media and the "new war" in Cabo Delgado, concentrating on the events surrounding the conquest of the Makonde plateau, a site of great symbolic importance in the Mozambican liberation struggle. Drawing on emerging literature on digital militarism, the essay specifically examines orality and the use of voice notes as a means of conveying information deemed more reliable and stable than images. By tracing these media and their interconnections, the essay constructs a somewhat fragmented narrative of the fall of the Makonde plateau, highlights recurring patterns of violence in the Cabo Delgado conflict, and offers new insights into the formation of the Local Force, a state-sponsored militia primarily comprising war veterans (Israel, 2024, p. 1-35).

In this special issue of *Kronos,* Professor Ana Margarida Sousa Santos presents an intriguing article titled "Growing Apart: The Historical Construction of Difference in Northern Cabo Delgado, Mozambique". This research examines the relationship between historical experiences of violence and the contemporary narratives surrounding insurgency in northern Mozambique. Since the insurgency began in Cabo Delgado in 2017, accounts of past violent encounters and hostility between different ethnic groups sharing the coastal region have emerged as a means of understanding the conflict. The article investigates how these narratives arise from historical tensions between the Makonde and the Mwani populations in the northern districts of Cabo Delgado. Utilizing ethnography and oral history to emphasize the continuities in these narratives, the article explores how present violence is interpreted through references to significant moments of past violence. Additionally, it addresses the historical construction of differences between the Makonde and the Mwani, considering what insights this may provide into the underlying fractures fueling the insurgency (Santos, 2024, p. 1-20).

This dossier also publishes a joint paper by Stiga Hansen, from the Norwegian University of Life Sciences, and Ida Bary, Director of Researchers for Peace and Development (REPAD), entitled “Spectres of Black Flags in the Miombo: The Islamic State’s coverage of their Mozambique province, 2022–2023”. This article studies the Islamic State's only remaining periodical, Al-Naba,

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identifying the most common tropes and patterns in the periodical's Sub-Saharan Africa coverage, and on Mozambique in particular. The Islamic State's increasingly important coverage of Africa focuses on terror attacks, military campaigns and on the fight against Christianity. However, it also employs more traditional anti-colonial arguments that have been used by other, more accepted, political actors during the struggle for decolonization. Al-Naba also functions as a 'shamer' of non-African Muslims, to get them to join jihad by pointing to the African successes of the organization and set these successes up as examples to be followed. In this sense, the article illustrates how African jihadist branches can have global agency. The coverage in Al-Naba shows that Mozambique is an essential element in the Islamic State's media strategy, perhaps more than it deserves if judged by the scale of alleged Islamic State operations in the country. The attacks in Mozambique are used to illustrate that the Islamic State in general is fit and is expanding into new areas. For Al-Naba, Mozambique's jihadists also become important to illustrate the five common tropes presented in the Sub-Saharan Africa coverage. The tropes include the anti-colonial trope; the anti-Christian trope; the empowerment/ shaming trope intended to make Africans feel empowered by jihad, and to put pressure on non-Africans to join jihad; the Western greed trope; and the greedy African leader's trope (Hansen; Bary, 2024, p. 1-20).

João Feijó and Aslak Orre, researchers at the Mozambican “Observatório do Meio Rural” (Rural Observatory Institute), have co-authored an article in this special issue of *Kronos* titled “Domination, Collaboration, and Conflict in Cabo Delgado's History of Extractivism.” The longstanding history of extractive industries in northern Mozambique, particularly in the Cabo Delgado province, has significantly shaped local societies. For centuries, the growing international demand for local resources has profoundly affected these northern micro-societies. The pursuit of inexpensive labor and natural resources—including ivory, cotton, timber, rubies, land, and gas—has drawn thousands of local actors into extraction processes, thereby reinforcing existing power structures at the local level. The persistent issues of poverty, inequality, and conflict, often accompanied by episodes of large-scale violence, reflect a continuous trend of extractivism. Through a historical perspective and field observations, the authors analyze the political economy of natural resource extraction, emphasizing enduring patterns of extractivism that have continued to accompany Mozambique’s integration into global markets, a trend that has intensified in the post-independence period. These activities are primarily directed toward foreign markets and driven by foreign investment, yet they are invariably implemented in collaboration with a network of national gatekeepers. In this clientelist environment, local elites exploit their connections to the state to maintain their power, frequently at the expense of state expropriation. The weaknesses of state institutions contribute to the perpetuation of these elites, ultimately aligning with the interests of extractivist capital. However, this system is riddled with contradictions, generating conflict and violence that often threaten these interests (Feijó; Orre, 2024, p. 1-29).

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Closing this thematic volume of *Kronos* is a study by Mozambican researcher Zacarias Milisse Chambe from the University of Belfast in Northern Ireland, titled "Here We Punish, Here We Discipline: Forced Displacement, Silencing, and the Multiple Faces of Violence in Cabo Delgado, Mozambique". This article begins by exploring the interconnected dynamics of forced displacement and silencing within communities that have endured various forms of violence during the Cabo Delgado insurgency. The study primarily examines the narratives surrounding the conflict that erupted on October 5, 2017, in the Mocímboa da Praia district along the Cabo Delgado coast. This conflict was instigated by the ASJW group, commonly referred to as the “mashababe,” a term used by the Makondes to denote the perceived “backwardness” of the Mwani. This conflict led to the destruction of granaries and homes, displacing hundreds of thousands and causing an unquantifiable number of deaths and disappearances. Chambe's research integrates historical and ethnographic investigations conducted between 2018 and 2021 with homeless populations from conflict-affected areas, especially those residing in the Nacaca Displacement Camp in the Montepuez district—an area that was once considered a refuge. The victims of this conflict continue to experience a form of silencing imposed by various actors who frequent their new living environments, a topic that warrants further examination (Chambe, 2024, p. 1-21).

As we enter 2025, researchers Rosita Chiotana and Luciana Vasco Dagama from the Catholic University of Mozambique have published a study in the journal *Recima21. Revista Científica Multidisciplinar* (Multidisciplinary Scientific Journal) entitled "Civil Society's Perception of the Terrorist Displacement Camps in Cabo Delgado". This paper examines the perspectives of civil society regarding the displacement camps in Cabo Delgado, which are currently sheltering thousands of individuals fleeing the ASJW insurgency. The actions undertaken by civil society and various organizations demonstrate a strong commitment to improving conditions within these camps, focusing on providing dignified and secure living environments for those affected. Although the assistance provided has led to significant advancements, considerable challenges persist, particularly concerning the ability of these families to achieve independent livelihoods. Additionally, the number of displaced individuals continues to increase daily, even as aid efforts wane, given that many initiatives aimed at supporting these communities lack sustainability. In this context, the study underscores the necessity for civil society to explore strategies that promote income generation for families and individuals living in Cabo Delgado's refugee camps (Chiotana; Dagama, 2025, p. 1-15).

An interesting study titled "Exploring the Impact of Conflict on Cross-Border Links and Community Resilience in Cabo Delgado, Mozambique" was recently published in the *South African Journal of International Affairs* by Stephen Buchanan-Clarke of the Southern Africa Regional Office, Craig Moffat of the Good Governance Program in Johannesburg, and João Feijó of the “Observatório do Meio Rural de Moçambique,” who is also the author of one of the four books

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included in this inventory. This research investigates how the ongoing conflict in Cabo Delgado province has disrupted vital cross-border connections relied upon by communities in northern Mozambique. Drawing on fieldwork conducted between August 2023 and January 2024, the study reveals that security interventions designed to prevent the spread of conflict may have inadvertently weakened these essential cross-border links, which are crucial for community resilience. The disruptions encompass various dimensions: economic impacts such as constrained trade networks, diminished access to healthcare and educational services, and sociocultural repercussions including severed familial connections. The study makes a significant contribution to resilience theory by emphasizing the critical role of cross-border relationships in conflict-affected border regions and highlights the need for policy alternatives that better balance security concerns with the requirements for community resilience (Buchanan-Clarke; Moffat; Feijó, 2025, p. 1–20).

Daniel Missel, a researcher at the *Instituto de Ciências Sociais da Universidade de Lisboa*, has recently published a study titled “Drawing Past Displacement in Cabo Delgado: From Cognitive Maps to Durable Solutions” in the journal of Ethnic and Racial Studies. This work is part of his Ph.D. thesis, "Cascading Arenas of Contestation: The Multi-Scalar Livelihood Determinants of Internally Displaced Women in Cabo Delgado, Mozambique." The author notes that over one million internally displaced persons (IDPs) have been documented as a result of the ongoing guerilla war in Cabo Delgado. While they await durable solutions to their displacement, women IDPs continue to uphold their traditional roles, which are influenced by their spatial practices and necessitate negotiation with their new communities and environments. Utilizing feminist, poststructuralist, and postcolonial methodologies, this article engages with women IDPs through the co-production of cognitive maps. This approach aims to cultivate an embodied and multisensory understanding of the connections between their socio-spatial practices and socioeconomic integration. By exploring their embodied experiences and multisensory narratives, the participants in the study illustrate how a confluence of structural, cultural, and individual factors shapes their responsibilities, daily activities, and emotional landscapes amid internal displacement. The article ultimately argues that women must play a central role in the formulation of policies and interventions that support durable solutions in Cabo Delgado (Missel, 2025, p. 1-23).

To conclude, let us examine the troubling recent publication by Paolo Israel, titled “The Mother of Awashi: Violence and Virtuality in the War for Cabo Delgado (Mozambique),” published in the *Nordic Journal of African Studies.* This work investigates a critical incident from September 2020, when a deeply disturbing video emerged on social media, showing five individuals in Mozambican army uniforms inflicting extreme violence on a naked civilian woman along a roadside. This footage, part of the ongoing insurgency in Cabo Delgado, marked the sixth instance of such brutality being visually documented within a brief period, representing a significant escalation in the portrayal of conflict-related violence against non-combatants.

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The video's release incited widespread outrage and led to extensive discussions about the ethical dimensions of the conflict, with varied interpretations of the events depicted in the footage arising among viewers. In response to the pressure from organizations such as Amnesty International, the Mozambican government dismissed the video as “subversive propaganda” and a fabricated montage, thereby evading accountability. Israel's article applies a micro-analytical framework to examine the implications of the “mother of Awashi” incident—named after the village where the atrocity occurred—inviting a nuanced exploration of the interplay between violence and digital representation within the context of Cabo Delgado’s contemporary conflict. The research underscores how the lived experiences and multisensory narratives of the participants in the study are shaped by a confluence of structural, cultural, and individual factors, influencing their sense of responsibility, daily routines, and emotional responses amidst internal displacement. Ultimately, the article posits the necessity for incorporating women’s perspectives in the development of policies and interventions aimed at fostering sustainable solutions in Cabo Delgado, underlining the importance of gender inclusivity in conflict resolution frameworks. (Israel, 2025, p. 227-243).

After this itinerary, it is essential to emphasize again that the summarized articles are sourced from indexed academic journals. Additionally, numerous serious and rigorous works have been published, primarily by Mozambican researchers, in bulletins, websites, and other expeditious formats for disseminating primary research and research notes. Researchers should particularly pay attention to the IESE bulletin titled "Ideias (Informação sobre Desenvolvimento, Instituições e Análise Social)" and its regular "Cadernos," which feature many significant texts addressing various moments and themes related to the Cabo Delgado uprising. For instance, Sérgio Chichava, a prominent scholar on the subject and a director at IESE, published four noteworthy research notes in “Ideias” and “Cadernos” in 2020 alone (Chichava, 2020a; Chichava, 2020b; Chichava, 2020c; Chichava, 2020d). These examples, along with other diverse forms of publication, dissemination, and discussions, necessitate the mobilization of a considerable collective and time-intensive effort to research everything and everyone who has been writing and publishing about the insurrection in Cabo Delgado since 2017, utilizing a variety of media and formats.

Survey of academic research and publications 4:

Summarizing indexed Books and Books chapters

Among the eleven publications added to our inventory as Books and Books' chapters, we will start by focusing on the latter. In 2020, a collaborative work organized by Salvador Forquilha, titled “Desafios para Moçambique 2020” (Challenges for Mozambique 2020) was published in Maputo by IESE (Forquilha, 2020). This volume includes four distinct chapters addressing the

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insurrection in Cabo Delgado. One first chapter, titled “Cabo Delgado e o risco sistémico da Guerra em Moçambique” (Cabo Delgado and the systemic risk of war in Mozambique) features a study by Severino Ngoenha, a professor at the *Universidade Pedagógica de Maputo,* Giverage do Amaral, a professor at the *Universidade Técnica de Moçambique*, and Alcido Nhumaio, a professor at the *Universidade do Save,* in Xai-Xai region. The authors observe that, despite ongoing debates surrounding the origins and nature of the conflict, field research indicates that the group ASJW, responsible for the attacks in Cabo Delgado, initially emerged as a sect with branches in Nampula and Niassa. This group later evolved into a military movement within the framework of jihad. While it has local roots and religious aspirations, the group has also seen involvement from foreigners who settled in the region through marriage. Beginning in mid-2019, it forged an alliance with the Islamic State. The entry of the Islamic State, which brought with it better trained and more experienced foreign fighters, as well as advanced weaponry, significantly enhanced the group’s operational capabilities. As a result, it shifted its focus from attacking small villages to launching large-scale assaults on district capitals, thereby increasing its international visibility. Nevertheless, the group behind the violence in Cabo Delgado, similar to other groups across Africa, particularly in the Sahel, Nigeria, and Somalia, exploits various local cleavages and tensions, which are crucial to its growth and activities (Ngoenha; Amaral; Nhumaio, 2020, p. 35-46).

A second chapter arises from the collaboration between the book's organizer, Salvador Forquilha, and sociologist João Pereira, with the expansive title "Face ao conflito no Norte, o que pode Moçambique aprender com a sua própria guerra civil (1976-1992)? Uma análise das dinâmicas da insurgência em Cabo Delgado” ("In light of the conflict in the North, what can Mozambique learn from its own civil war (1976-1992)? An analysis of the dynamics of the insurgency in Cabo Delgado"). The authors explore what insights Mozambique can glean from its historical cycles of violence over the past 50 years, paying particular attention to the lessons derived from its own civil war (1976–1992) in order to address the current conflict. Drawing on empirical material gathered as part of the ongoing research program at IESE, entitled "State, Violence, and Development Challenges in Northern Mozambique," the authors focus their analysis on the dynamics of the insurgency. They contend that despite the distinctions between the civil war and the insurgency in Cabo Delgado, notable similarities exist—particularly concerning the dynamics of conflict and the manner in which the Mozambican state has structured its response. The authors highlight that, similar to the civil war, the group leading the violent challenge to the state in Cabo Delgado leverages preexisting social, economic, and political divisions to construct narratives that promote the advancement of the insurgency. Consequently, they assert that the state's response to the conflict in Cabo Delgado should not be exclusively oriented toward the external dimension—the aggression from the Islamic State—but must also take into account the

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internal factors that propel the insurgency forward, namely the social, economic, and political cleavages present in the region (Forquilha; Pereira, 2020, p. 47-55).

A third compelling chapter is authored by Luís de Brito, a professor at Eduardo Mondlane University, titled “Geografia Eleitoral e Insurgência em Cabo Delgado” (Electoral Geography and Insurgency in Cabo Delgado). Utilizing electoral data from both district and administrative post levels, the author endeavors to establish a correlation between voting patterns for different parties and levels of abstention, juxtaposed with areas impacted by violence. The analysis posits that election outcomes delineate political divisions and potential social conflicts. Notably, the findings reveal that the mapping of attacks aligns closely with support for Renamo, indicating a positive correlation between votes for Renamo and the frequency of attacks at the administrative post level. In his concluding remarks, the author observes a troubling trend: regions afflicted by armed violence appear to be spreading southward and inland within Cabo Delgado province, and further into Nampula province—an area known for its historical support of Renamo (Brito, 2020, p. 57-64).

Sérgio Chichava, the Deputy Director for Research and President of the Scientific Council at the Institute of Social and Economic Studies (IESE), has published a fourth chapter titled “Ugandeses e Tanzanianos do Al-Shabaab: um olhar à dimensão internacional do conflito em Cabo Delgado” (Ugandans and Tanzanians of Al-Shabaab: A Look at the International Dimension of the Conflict in Cabo Delgado). This chapter explores the involvement of Ugandans and Tanzanians in the ASJW insurgent group, which has been attacking state institutions and civilians in Cabo Delgado province since October 2017. The author examines the profiles of these individuals affiliated with "Mozambican Al-Shabaab" (ASJW) and seeks to address several key questions: Who are the Tanzanians and Ugandans involved with ASJW? How did they arrive in Mozambique? What are their objectives? Why did they select Cabo Delgado as their operational base? Is ASJW affiliated with the Islamic State? Research indicates that there is growing evidence suggesting ASJW is in the process of evolving into a transnational Islamic terrorist organization akin to the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), which operates not only in the Democratic Republic of the Congo but also maintains connections with Tanzanian extremists. This implies that ASJW comprises not only Mozambicans but also foreign fighters from various nationalities. Another notable finding from the study is that, beyond its links with other terrorist organizations, such as the Ugandan ADF, ASJW is associated with radical Islamic groups in Tanzania that have conducted attacks against the Tanzanian state. However, establishing a direct connection to Daesh/Islamic State remains challenging. Despite some evidence suggesting that ADF has ties to this Islamist group and ASJW's regular displays of allegiance to the Islamic State—evidenced by raising the ISIS flag and executing violent armed attacks in Cabo Delgado province—verification of a substantial link is still elusive (Chichava, 2020, p. 429-439).

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Continuing in 2020, the insurgency in Cabo Delgado is addressed in a chapter within the third volume of *Extremisms in Africa*, edited by Stephen Buchanan-Clarke, Lloyd Coutts, Susan Russel, Alain Tschudin, and Mandla Tyala, and published in Johannesburg by the group Good Governance Africa. Linos Mapfumo, a senior foreign policy analyst in the Zimbabwean Foreign Service, contributes a significant chapter entitled “The Nexus Between Violent Extremism and the Illicit Economy in Northern Mozambique: Is Mozambique Under Siege from International Organised Crime?”. Mapfumo critiques the effectiveness and strategic soundness of relying solely on militarized approaches to counter violent extremism, particularly considering the paradigms established by the Global War on Terror. He argues against the uncritical adoption of international counter-terrorism frameworks promoted by entities such as the UN and EU, particularly when these models are applied in the African context, especially regarding the Islamic insurgency in Cabo Delgado. The author emphasizes the necessity of a nuanced understanding of local historical, cultural, and geopolitical contexts, as well as other specific local factors, in order to effectively counter the violent emergence of ASJW terrorist attacks targeting state institutions, communities, and individuals throughout Cabo Delgado. He asserts that regional collaboration is imperative; the Mozambican government should proactively engage with the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and neighboring states to develop a consensus and a coordinated action plan, particularly focusing on curbing illicit financial flows. The conflict in Cabo Delgado is marked by a variety of underlying drivers and complexities. Therefore, Mapfumo advocates for a comprehensive and integrated strategic response that addresses the insurgency holistically, rather than relying on heavy-handed security measures alone. He criticizes the Mozambican government's tendency to downplay the insurgency by labeling it as "banditry." Instead, he urges the Mozambican government to leverage the platforms of SADC, the African Union, and the United Nations to thoroughly inform the international community about the nature and severity of the threat, to facilitate the mobilization of resources needed to effectively counter it (Mapfumo, 2020, p. 96-117).

In 2024, an edited volume by Tendai Chari and Ufuoma Akpojivi, titled “Communication Rights in Africa: Emerging Discourses and Perspectives,” features an original chapter by Dércio Tsandzana, a researcher from Eduardo Mondlane University in Maputo. His chapter, entitled "Cabo Delgado também é Moçambique: The Paths of Youth Digital Activism in a Restrictive Context," explores the challenges and opportunities that youth civic engagement faces in Mozambique amidst the insurgency and terrorism in Cabo Delgado. Despite the country's low internet access, estimated at approximately 21% in 2023, Tsandzana investigates the activities of a civic movement called "Cabo Delgado também é Moçambique." This movement has successfully mobilized a significant number of young individuals through digital and communication platforms to advocate for the national cause of combating terrorism. The research highlights the considerable

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gaps that hinder these actions from achieving broader inclusivity, largely due to the prevailing disinterest fostered by the country's political landscape, particularly the policies of the ruling FRELIMO party. This environment not only restricts the participation of more young activists in political movements but may also lead to a misconception about the level of civic engagement among youth. In reality, informal and unconventional methods of political and civic participation are emerging as crucial in addressing the insurgency in Cabo Delgado (Tsandzana, 2024, p. 91-109).

Another book chapter dedicated to the Cabo Delgado uprising was published in 2024 as part of *The Palgrave Handbook of Violence in Africa.* Titled "Through the Afrocentricity Lens: Terror, Insurgency, and Implications for Regional Integration in Southern Africa from Cabo Delgado Province, Mozambique," this study showcases collaborative research by three scholars from South African institutions: Daniel Nkosinathi Mlambo of the Pretoria University of Technology, Victor H. Mlambo from the University of Johannesburg, and Mandla Mfundo Masuku of the University of KwaZulu-Natal. The research offers a multidisciplinary analysis of the dynamics in Cabo Delgado, which is essential for informing policymakers and leaders about effective initiatives aimed at reducing instability and addressing its root causes. For the region to fully benefit from integration, it is crucial to mitigate both regional and continental conflicts in both the short and long term. Additionally, ongoing national political and socioeconomic challenges must be tackled. This endeavor requires a commitment to responsibility, accountability, good governance, and effective state-society relations. Importantly, the Mozambican government must enhance the presence of security resources—both police and military—in the terrorist hotspots of Cabo Delgado to facilitate effective navigation by road, air, and sea. Ultimately, the government must take the lead in combating the insurgency to foster trust within the local population, as no foreign assistance can substitute for strong political leadership (Mlambo; Mlambo; Masuku, 2024, p. 221-239).

Returning to a chronological order, let's summarize the four indexed academic books on the insurgency and terrorism in Cabo Delgado. The first title, published in 2019 in both Portuguese and English, is "Islamic Radicalization in Northern Mozambique: The Case of Mocímboa da Praia." This work was produced by three Mozambican researchers: Saide Habibe, Salvador Forquilha, and João Pereira, and was published by the Institute for Social and Economic Studies (IESE) with support from the Civil Society Support Mechanism Foundation (MASC Foundation). This book is the result of exploratory research aimed at examining the nature and underlying factors of the violence in Mocímboa da Praia and its surrounding districts. It plays a pivotal role in an IESE research project, currently in its early stages, titled "State, Violence, and Development Challenges in Cabo Delgado." Fieldwork for this book was conducted between November 2017 and February 2018, focusing primarily on the origins of the Al-Shabaab jihadist group (ASJW), its characteristics, financial mechanisms, and methods of propagation. Moreover, the book seeks to inform the MASC Foundation's future strategic plan, particularly in relation to preventing youth radicalization in

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northern Mozambique. Several questions raised during this initial research phase will be revisited and explored in greater depth within the broader context of the aforementioned research project (Habibe; Forquilha; Pereira, 2019, p. 6-7).

In 2021, the Mozambican sociologist João Feijó, one of the foremost experts on this conflict, published in Portuguese a book titled “Conflito e Desenvolvimento em Cabo Delgado” (Conflict and Development in Cabo Delgado). This study highlights how the escalation of military conflict in Cabo Delgado has led to a notable increase in the number of displaced individuals, primarily concentrated in urban centers or the southern region of the province, where they endure extremely precarious conditions. The unsustainability of providing indefinite food assistance to these displaced populations, coupled with the inadequate living conditions in their refugee camps and the looming risk of epidemic outbreaks, emphasizes the urgent need for a more structured intervention. Such an intervention should focus not only on relocating populations to safer areas but also on facilitating their socioeconomic reintegration. According to the author, there is a pressing demand for a comprehensive and integrated development plan for Cabo Delgado. This plan should aim for immediate impacts in both the short and medium term while being underpinned by a cohesive long-term strategy. Socioeconomic development must be regarded as the most effective counterinsurgency approach; without it, efforts to deter younger, marginalized populations from joining violent groups like ASWJ may prove ineffective. This book aims to provide valuable insights into economic development perspectives amidst the political and military instability in Cabo Delgado (Feijó, 2021).

In a substantial and comprehensive volume titled with notable theatrical flair, "Mozambique is Burning: Islamic Insurgency in Cabo Delgado," we encounter an extensive collaborative work published in 2022 by Amos Saurombe, Pedzisai Ruhanya, and Maurice Taonezvi Vambe. This publication, which is backed by the Africa Institute for Culture, Peace, Dialogue & Tolerance Studies in Harare, in partnership with the University of Midlands State in Gweru, Zimbabwe, showcases contributions from 35 authors. While most contributors hail from South Africa and Zimbabwe, the work also includes insights from three Mozambican researchers. Spanning 24 chapters, the book presents a range of original and thought-provoking studies. In the introductory presentation, the editors provide an insightful overview titled “Strong Party, Fragile State Institutions in Post-Independence Mozambique,” which illuminates a significant aspect of the structure and discussions within the work, drawing from the proceedings of an international conference on the Cabo Delgado insurgency held in Harare (p. 1-16).

The first part of the book centers on “Historical Background and Local Actors in the Mozambique Conflict.” The initial chapter, titled “Borderland Problem: Cabo Delgado Insurgency in Mozambique, 2017-2021,” is co-authored by James Hlongwana, Joshua Chakawa, and João Abílio Lázaro (p. 17-35). The second chapter, written by Khatija Bibi Khan, poses the question: “Is the

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Political Conflict in the Cabo Delgado Region of Mozambique an Islamic-Inspired Insurgency?" (p. 36-49). The third chapter, authored by Mpfariseni Budeli Nemakonde and Beauty Vambe, explores the topic "Child Soldiers as Child Labor under RENAMO and the Islamic Insurgency of Cabo Delgado" (p. 50-71). The final chapter examines "The Impact on Women of the Mozambique Conflict in Cabo Delgado," contributed by Sharon Hofisi, Valerie R. Jeche, and Oripha Chimwara (p. 72-89).

The second part, titled "Media Representations of Political Crises in Cabo Delgado," features several articles that provide limited insights into the insurgency in Cabo Delgado. Following the editorial sequence, the fifth chapter is authored by Mzukisi Jerry Lento and is titled "A Critical Exploration of Interstate Relations between South Africa and Mozambique" (p. 90-101). The sixth chapter, contributed by Angela Mabudusha, presents "Reflections on Afrophobic Protests and Attacks Against Mozambican Migrants in South Africa" (p. 102-123). The seventh chapter, co-authored by Trust Matsilele and Blessing Makwambeni, examines "Through the South African Media Lens: A Case Study of News24, TimesLive, and IOL's Framing of the Mozambican Conflict" (p. 124-141). Finally, chapter eight offers Wellington Gadzikwa's study on the "International Media Framing of the Role of SADC in the Islamist Insurgency in Cabo Delgado, Mozambique" (p. 142-166).

The book transitions into a highly engaging third section titled "Historical and Literary Metaphors of Violence in the Mozambique Conflict." This segment commences with chapter nine, "The Motif of Civil Strife in Mozambican Writings: Chronicles of Insurgency in Cabo Delgado," authored by V. Z. Nyawo and P. Viriri Shava (p. 167-182). Following this, chapter ten explores "Metaphors of Violence in Mia Couto's Voices Made Night," written by Maurice Vambe (p. 183-209). The section concludes with chapter eleven, which presents an article on "Fractal Dimensions of Mozambique's Postcolonial National Consciousness," by Advice Viriri (p. 210-225).

The work then progresses to a fourth part titled "Economic Impact of the Conflict in Cabo Delgado and Responsibility to Protect." This section begins with a study by Beauty Vambe, a professor at the University of South Africa in Pretoria, which examines "Mozambique's Strategic Role in SADC Regional Economic Integration" (p. 226-240). Following this, chapter thirteen, which is somewhat distanced from the Cabo Delgado context, explores "Boko Haram Insurgency and Challenges of Regional Integration in Sub-Saharan States of West Africa," authored by Usman Sambo and Babayo Sule (p. 241-264). Chapter fourteen features a study by Moses Tofa, titled "Insurgency in Cabo Delgado: Lessons from the Boko Haram Insurgency in West Africa" (p. 265-280). In chapter fifteen, Dewa Mavhinga addresses "Mozambique and the Responsibility to Protect" (p. 281–289). This fourth part concludes with chapter sixteen, in which Brian Hungwe analyzes "The Mozambique Situation: The Political and Legal Implications of Investigating and

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Prosecuting Perpetrators of War Crimes and/or Crimes Against Humanity in Cabo Delgado Province" (p. 290–323).

The volume features a fifth part titled "SADC and AU Responses to the Mozambique-Cabo Delgado Political Crises." This topic begins to take shape in chapter seventeen, co-authored by Sharon Hofisi and Tapiwa Nherera, which addresses "New Wars Discourse and the Privatization of War in Cabo Delgado, Mozambique: Implications for Conflict Management" (p. 324-341). Chapter eighteen presents an article by Andreas Velthuizen titled "Deciding the African Way: The SADC Response to the Insurrection in Cabo Delgado Province of Mozambique" (p. 342-363). In chapter nineteen, Amos Saurombe examines "The Role of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) in the Mozambique Insurgency" (p. 363-376). The dossier concludes with chapter twenty, authored by Jameel James Asani, who investigates "Rwanda and Uganda's Military Involvement in the Mozambique Conflict: Challenge to SADC or Extension of AU Mandate?" (p. 377-392).

This significant book, characterized by its thematic diversity and multidisciplinary approach, includes a sixth and final part titled "Peace-building Efforts and New Threats to SADC Stability." Chapter twenty-one features a study by Bekezela Gumbo and Pedzisai Ruhanya, titled "Islamic Insurgency in Cabo Delgado Province: Imminent Peace-building Imbroglio in Southern Africa" (p. 393-419). Chapter twenty-two is a collaborative work by Moses Tofa, Wanjiru Gichohi, and Winnie Kishara, addressing the critical issue of "The Tomorrow That Never Comes: Youth Exclusion, the Insurgency in Cabo Delgado, and the Threat of Spread" (p. 420-435). In chapter twenty-three, Urther Rwafa examines "The Mozambican Islamic Insurgency and SADC's Dilemmas in Dealing with Terrorism and Political Instability in Cabo Delgado Province" (p. 436-454). Finally, chapter twenty-four, which draws on research by Sadiki Maeresera and Torque Mude, explores "Terrorism Insurgency in Mozambique's Cabo Delgado Province: A Further Test for Effective Utilization of the SADC Standby Force" (p. 455-472).

In 2023, Professor Eric Morier-Genoud released a pivotal work titled "Towards Jihad? Muslims and Politics in Postcolonial Mozambique". This book investigates the origins of the insurgency in Cabo Delgado, while also examining the broader historical context of the relationship between Islam and politics in Mozambique. Did the political activities of the country's Muslim community consistently suggest a tendency toward jihad? The author analyzes the period immediately following independence, marked by state-driven anticlericalism, and traces developments through the 2000s, when both the ruling party and the opposition sought the support of Muslim voters for electoral advantage. He subsequently addresses the 2010s, a decade when tensions between the mosque and the state reemerged. The book explores various phenomena, including the rise of Wahhabism, religious competition, state mediation, secularism, and the perceived growth and radicalization of Islam, alongside the underlying causes of the ongoing insurgency. The result is a comprehensive historical narrative that thoughtfully considers the

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diverse branches and elements within the Muslim community, moving beyond a narrow focus on jihad. By adopting a sociocultural and historical perspective, this study elucidates a complex dynamic that has been disrupted by the insurgency. A thorough understanding of the long history of Muslim engagement in Mozambique's politics offers valuable insights into the nation's past, its current state of violent unrest, and potential future developments (Morier-Genoud, 2023).

Finally, it is important to note that several additional books focusing on the Cabo Delgado insurgency have been identified, yet they are not listed in academic research indexes. This exclusion may stem from factors such as the type of publication, methods of dissemination, or the nature of their content. One notable work is a book-report coordinated in 2019 by Teresa Cunha, titled “Estudo de Caso: Cabo Delgado (Moçambique), a terra onde não se come o que se produz e produz o que não se come” (Case Study: Cabo Delgado (Mozambique), the Land Where What Is Produced Is Not Eaten and What Is Produced Is Produced). This publication received support from the Basque Agency for Development Cooperation (AVCD-Elankidetza), the Basque Government, and the Gernika Gogoratuz Peace Research Association, in collaboration with the Gernikatik Mundura association (Cunha, 2019). Additionally, significant contributions have been made by Rufino Alexandre Sitoe, a researcher from Joaquim Chissano University in Maputo, who published the book “Terrorismo em África: a presença da ameaça em Moçambique” (Terrorism in Africa: The Presence of the Threat in Mozambique; Sitoe, 2020). Furthermore, a valuable work coordinated by Geraldo Luís Macalane and Silvestre Jafar was published in 2021 in Pemba by the University of Rovuma, titled “Ataques Terroristas em Cabo Delgado (2017-2020): as causas do fenómeno pela boca da população de Mocímboa da Praia” (Terrorist Attacks in Cabo Delgado (2017-2020): The Causes of the Phenomenon as Reported by the Population of Mocímboa da Praia; Macalane & Jafar, 2021), which provides important insights from the local community.

Additionally, there are books, magazines, and other commercially oriented publications that provide readers and consumers with insights into the ongoing conflict in Cabo Delgado, blending current events with curiosity. One of the most notable titles in this context is authored by Nuno Rogeiro, a prominent political commentator for one of Portugal's largest private television stations. He released a widely discussed 230-page book, now in its second edition, titled “O Cabo do Medo: o Daesh em Moçambique (Junho 2019-2020)” (Cape of Fear: Daesh in Mozambique (June 2019-2020); Rogeiro, 2020). Although categorized as a non-academic work, it is classified as “non-fiction” and functions as a political essay grounded in journalistic sources, opinion pieces, and personal, sensational, and provocative perspectives.

It is also plausible that other less formal and more situational publications exist in book-like formats but remain untraceable in existing indexes and bibliographic inventories. Compiling this information necessitates more extensive collective research efforts, which demand significant time and appropriate funding. Without these resources, creating a comprehensive and qualified

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database becomes challenging, hindering researchers, research institutes, universities, as well as political, social, and cultural decision-makers in their efforts to gain a deeper understanding of the dramatic conflict in Cabo Delgado. Despite the multidisciplinary perspectives offered in the catalogued academic materials, it remains profoundly challenging to ground research in fieldwork and effectively integrate the spatial dimensions into research strategies. Access to the areas of Cabo Delgado most impacted by the ASJW attacks is severely restricted, and engagement with terrorist groups is virtually impossible. Furthermore, conducting research among the thousands of refugees poses its own set of challenges, as local authorities, with the backing of the central government, often prefer to maintain silence rather than facilitate informed communication. Although there are noteworthy contributions that have been summarized, it is evident that the subject of the insurrection and conflict in Cabo Delgado has yet to gain traction as a focal point for international academic research, attracting researchers, research centers, and leading publications. To address this, it is essential to broaden the scope of international scientific collaboration in the coming years by securing funding and promoting specific research initiatives that enhance our understanding of the conflict and contribute to its resolution.

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