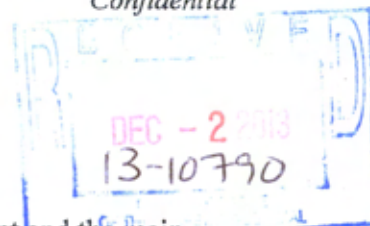


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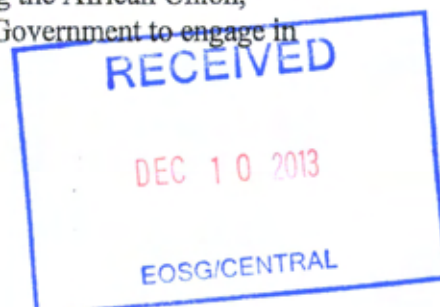
Note to the Deputy Secretary-General

**THE SITUATION IN MOZAMBIQUE**



02/12/13

1. In October 2013, tensions escalated between the Government and the main opposition party, the Resistência Nacional Moçambicana (RENAMO). On 21 October, the military seized RENAMO's base in central Mozambique and its leader, Afonso Dhlakama, fled to an undisclosed location, where he remains. This follows a year-long stalled negotiation process between the two parties around RENAMO's main grievances, including changes to the electoral law and additional posts in government and the army, as well as equal access to business opportunities.
2. While the situation remains tense in central Mozambique as sporadic armed attacks and counter-attacks continue between the two parties, a return to all-out civil war remains unlikely largely due to RENAMO's limited military capability, diminishing credibility, and support from among the population and within the region.
3. Negotiations between the two parties have not resumed. RENAMO has indicated its availability to return to the negotiation table provided that national or international mediators are present. On 25 November, the Government stated that it would allow the presence of national observers but that it would view the participation of foreign mediators as interference.
4. In addition to the Secretary-General's statement issued on 23 October, the African Union, the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries (CPLP), the European Union, the United States, South Africa and Zimbabwe, among others, have expressed concern over these developments and have called on both parties to resume dialogue to peacefully resolve their differences. On 13 November, the Secretary-General called President Guebuza to urge him to fully engage in inclusive dialogue to resolve differences with RENAMO and offer discreet technical support to the negotiations. President Guebuza appreciated the Secretary-General's offer of support and said that he would approach the UN, if and when such support may be needed.
5. The local municipal elections held on 20 November, in 53 municipalities country-wide, were largely peaceful. While the ruling party won in most of the cities, its victory was weaker than its 2008 showing, as the third largest party in the country, the Mozambique Democratic Movement (MDM), made substantial gains. Even if the local elections have posed no threats to security, we have reason to be concerned about the forthcoming general elections, scheduled for late 2014.
6. Despite its weak political and military capacities, RENAMO remains a disruptive force of Mozambique's development and consolidation of democracy. DPA will continue to work with the regional actors, including the African Union, SADC and CPLP where possible, and extend support to the Government to engage in



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dialogue with RENAMO with a view to addressing the pressing grievances by both parties.

7. The Resident Coordinator has been providing constant useful analysis on the evolution of the crisis. Since the Secretary-General's telephone call to President Guebuza, the President has not approached the UN for any support. In these circumstances, it is clear that deploying a Special Envoy of the Secretary-General to Mozambique would not be welcome. However, one option to consider may be to have SRSG Menkerios, whose mandate extends to Southern Africa, undertake a regional familiarization tour, to sensitize the leaders as well as different political stakeholders and civil society in the SADC region, on the UN's new engagement in Southern Africa. Should this meet your concurrence, SRSG Menkerios could commence his regional visit from Gaborone SADC Headquarters, before proceeding to Dar-es-Salaam and thereafter to Maputo, Mozambique to hold consultations with key interlocutors. ✓✓✓

8. DPA will continue to monitor the developments in Mozambique and will update you as appropriate. ✓



Jeffrey Feltman  
2 December 2013

cc: Ms. Malcorra