

## MOZAMBIQUE

### Research paper's abstract



Mozambique is in a state of severe political crisis. The main opposition party, Renamo, rejected the results of the 2014 general elections, accusing the government party, Frelimo, of stealing the election through substantial fraud. The situation has since then spiralled into a much fragile situation with each party accusing each other for violent acts and misconduct of power. Mozambique has been a multi-party democracy for more than 20 years, but violence is still an active part of political life. Renamo is an opposition party that still also holds an armed force, meaning that they are operating both within and outside of the political arena. This is claimed necessary due to Frelimo's unlawful control of the government forces who have been accused of several recent attacks against Renamos leader. Mozambique has a political system constructed during peacebuilding on the actors from the conflict, meaning that there is an inherent lack of trust between the parties and the system has not been able to do enough to overcome and control that situation. This paper explores and discusses the underlying reasons for the use of electoral contempt and the use of violence in Mozambique. It does not attempt to claim who is right, but it attempts to understand how it is justified to use violence to contest an electoral outcome, it attempts to understand the political arena and the historical legacy of the use of violence and what it is that constitutes the current political crisis, and it discusses possible avenues for the future.