
Africa under attack: terrorism, locusts, hunger and Covid-19

The Horn of Africa and the whole of East Africa, from Sudan to Mozambique, as well as the central region, between Niger and the Central African Republic, are facing dramatic challenges (environmental disasters, terrorism, epidemics) that threaten people's lives and direly test their resilience.



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[. who delved into the details of the identity of the Cabo Delgado terrorist group. **Violence in Mozambique.** "At the beginning it was thought to be a ' faceless enemy', but in the latest attacks they claimed to represent the Islamic State, although we have many doubts in this respect. They might be using this denomination in an instrumental way," said the bishop interviewed by Paolo Annechini. "Attacks have not ceased and in fact intensified since they first began on October 4, 2017," said Dom Lisboa. "At first, the armed men were distant from the city centre, in the northern area of Cabo Delgado. When they attacked a residential area, people took refuge in the city and the villages emptied. They carried out brutal attacks: people were killed, beheaded, and houses were set to fire. From January 2020 their armed groups moved to Mocimboa de Praia, and in the last attacks they were wearing uniforms". According to the bishop, the armed enemy is increasingly determined and supported. However, this is not a religious war. "The Muslims of Mozambique have distanced themselves from them right from the start, with a written statement of condemnation. In fact, in our province, Christian-Muslims relations never experienced problems", the bishop pointed out. The terrorists recruit people in the villages and thus grow stronger. "Poverty is a crucial factor in this long-forgotten region", the bishop said. Unemployment and the lack of alternatives often drive young Mozambicans to join the armed groups.](#)



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. missionary of the Society of African Missions, to the Missio Foundation. Tillaberi, a town on the border with Mali, Burkina and Benin, is the epicentre of violence. Only two days ago twenty people were killed in an armed attack. "What I see from here, from the Niger desert, is a total lack of perspective and proportion on the part of the Western world. The local population is suffering from a number of structural problems, linked to food insecurity, jihadist terrorism, and the spread of life-threatening diseases (more than 40,000 people died from malaria)", said Father Mauro, referring to what he describes as "European cultural colonialism".



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. a Combonian missionary in Nairobi, Kenya, wrote in an open letter that floods, landslides, and mudslides caused by heavy rainfall are causing greater damage than the pandemic (32 deaths from Covid-19 have been reported so far). "Environmental disasters caused by human actions, negligence and greed - writes Father Kizito - continue uninterruptedly in this world region. Aggravated by the international corporations' reckless, criminal exploitation of natural resources, which escalated dramatically over the past decades."

**in cooperation with and materials of Paolo Annechini (Noticum)*

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