

The background image shows a large blue and white container ship docked at a port. The ship is surrounded by numerous colorful shipping containers (red, blue, green, yellow) and large red gantry cranes. The water in the foreground is a deep blue with gentle ripples. The sky is clear and light blue.

Anadarko Attack Post-Incident Report

28 February 2019

Executive Summary

- ◆ At approximately 1700hrs local time, on 21 February 2019, suspected Ahlu Sunna Wal Jamaa extremists conducted two attacks targeting vehicles of US-based oil and gas company Anadarko Petroleum Corp. At least one person was killed and a further six injured. No information has been disclosed on the nationalities of the staff, although it is believed they were all local nationals.
- ◆ The attacks targeting the Anadarko vehicle convoys occurred on the road between the town of Mocímboa da Praia and the company's liquefied natural gas (LNG) project-construction site in Afungi, in northern Mozambique's Cabo Delgado province. It was also reported that, on the same day, militants conducted raids on villages in the vicinity of the highway.
- ◆ While terrorist activity in the rest of the country is subdued, Cabo Delgado has experienced regular attacks since October 2017 by suspected Islamists. These have resulted in at least 226 deaths thus far. As such, there is an ongoing heightened risk of insurgency in the province.

The Incident

At approximately 1700hrs local time, on 21 February, suspected Islamist extremists ambushed an Anadarko convoy on the road from Mocímboa da Praia to Afungi, where the company's liquefied natural gas (LNG) project-construction site is located. Gunmen opened fire on the Anadarko vehicles, leading to six contractors sustaining injuries. In a secondary attack – similar in nature to the first, also at 1700hrs and along the same stretch of road – militants opened fire on another Anadarko convoy of workers, killing one person. Both attacks on the Anadarko convoys occurred approximately 20km from the LNG construction site in Afungi. Subsequently, a series of raids targeting at least four villages along the highway between Mocímboa da Praia and Palma was conducted on the same day. Some reports have alleged that a further two Anadarko subcontractors were killed during these assaults, though this has not been independently confirmed.



Bullet holes in one of the targeted Anadarko convoy vehicles. (Twitter/@Panafricvisions)

Security Situation

It is assessed there is currently a **HIGH** threat of insurgent violence in Cabo Delgado province, due to persistent insurgent attacks that frequently result in mass civilian casualties.

Since October 2017, suspected Ahlu Sunna Wal Jamaa militants (also known locally as 'Al Shabab'), have been responsible for dozens of armed attacks in northern Mozambique's Cabo Delgado province. The insurgent group appears to have evolved from initially targeting government assets to indiscriminately attacking civilians in remote villages. The recent attacks on assets of Anadarko however, may suggest the insurgent group is also seeking to express grievances toward oil and gas exploration in the region. These attacks marked the first set of coordinated attacks against an oil and gas company, and as such may be indicative of a shift in tactics away from

hit-and-run raids on rural villages, to high-profile attacks targeting foreign interests.

The two attacks on the Anadarko convoys also coincided with another tactical shift of insurgents operating in the region. Over the past couple of months, there has been a growing incidence of militant attacks on vehicles and roadways. This may be indicative of growing collusion with criminal organisations, given that banditry in the Mozambican countryside has regularly targeted travelers along the country's highways. Due to the nature of the Anadarko attacks, it is almost certain they were not opportunistic. Most notably, the similar timings and the reported use of barricades to stop the convoy vehicles suggests a significant deal of planning and coordination.

Overall, persisting violence in the Rovuma Basin may present a collateral threat to foreign contractors due to its indiscriminate nature. While attacks within larger urban centers are not anticipated, remote villages and rural highways are likely to be targeted. Further, direct attacks on oil and gas companies are also plausible. In addition to the insurgent threat, there also remains a heightened threat of financially-motivated kidnapping targeting foreigners, which is also a more general nationwide concern.

Outlook and Forecast

Despite the heightened security footprint in Cabo Delgado and the Mozambican government previously having given the insurgency a 'low-intensity' status, Mozambique's security environment in the north is expected to remain volatile for the medium term at least. Subsequent armed attacks on villages, often resulting in the indiscriminate killing of civilians and looting of residences, will persist. These attacks will also exacerbate the humanitarian crisis affecting remote communities. Attacks targeting vehicles along roadways are also expected, given the recent frequency of attacks of this nature. These have been observed to target public transport as well as private vehicles. The 21 February Anadarko attacks may signal an increased likelihood for similar coordinated attacks on oil and gas companies in Cabo Delgado in the future.

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