ARISE AFRICA

A Case Study from Mozambique: Spreading of the Violence to Previously Unaffected Areas

PRESENTED by NASSONE G.



Origins of Militant Activity in Mozambique

- The origins of ISM lie in East African Salafi-jihadist networks that reached into northern Mozambique as early as 2007;
- Ahlu Sunnah wal-Jamaa was founded by Mozambican and Tanzanian religious leaders with links to Salafist circles in Tanzania, Kenya, and Somalia.
- ASWJ's leaders appear to have originally recruited poor or unemployed youth by offering them small loans;

Origins of Militant Activity in Mozambique

Transition to militancy

- ASWJ began its transition toward militancy by mobilizing in mosques against established religious leaders;

- Around 2015, ASWJ leaders began setting up training camps in northern districts of Cabo Delgado and created a decision-making council that was reportedly responsible for crafting military strategy;
- The group began recruiting youth from Tanzania and the Great Lakes region;

- There are no indications that Mozambique's al-Shabaab is affiliated with Somali militant group of the same name;

Origins of Militant Activity in Mozambique

- At the beginning of 2019, news reports began to suggest that al-Shabaab was organizing training and operations with the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF);
- A militant group that has been waging a decades-long insurgency in eastern DRC and Uganda
- In March 2019, regional news outlets reported that an ADF offshoot, Madinat Tawhid-wa-l-Muwahidin (MTM), had opened a cell in northern Mozambique.
- In April 2019, ISIS announced the formation of the Islamic State Central Africa Province (ISCAP) after claiming responsibility for an attack launched by ADF militants in the DRC.

Origins of Militant Activity in Mozambique

- There are no indications that Mozambique's al-Shabaab is affiliated with Somali militant group of the same name;
- At the beginning of 2019, news reports began to suggest that al-Shabaab was organizing training and operations with the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF);
- A militant group that has been waging a decades-long insurgency in eastern DRC and Uganda
- In March 2019, regional news outlets reported that an ADF offshoot, Madinat Tawhid-wa-l-Muwahidin (MTM), had opened a cell in northern Mozambique.
- In April 2019, ISIS announced the formation of the Islamic State Central Africa Province (ISCAP) after claiming responsibility for an attack launched by ADF militants in the DRC.

Origins of Militant Activity in Mozambique

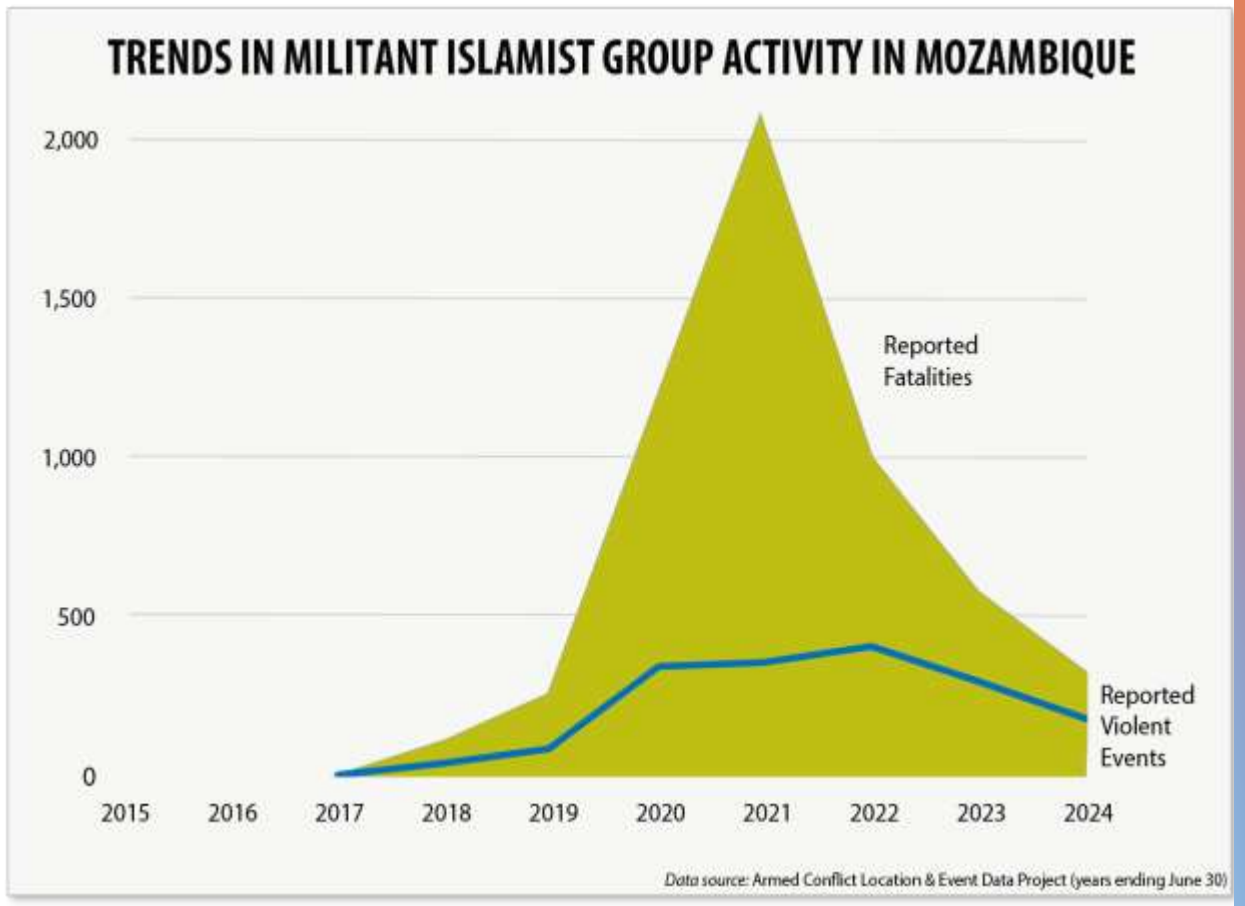
- Not long after, in June 2019, ISIS claimed responsibility for an attack perpetrated by al-Shabaab in Mozambique, thus formally incorporating al-Shabaab into ISCAP.

Escalation of the al-Shabaab Insurgency in Mozambique

- In August 2020, ASWJ captured Mocimboa da Praia;
- In March 2021, the State Department, labeled ASWJ as “ISIS Mozambique” (ISIS-M or IS-M)
- Al-Shabaab’s assault against the Village of Palma in March 2021 shows that the militant threat is enduring;
- Many members are local Mozambicans and Tanzanians;
- The group also includes foreign elements that comes from **Somalia, the Great Lakes region, Middle East and South Asia.**

Origins of Militant Activity in Mozambique

- Violence from militant Islamist has fluctuated dramatically since this threat first emerged in 2017;
- After escalating rapidly through 2021, which saw 2,080 deaths saw a nearly sixfold decline in deaths over the next 3 years;
- This decline is linked with the arrival of Southern African Development Community (SADC) and Rwandan security forces in July 2021.
- As result, the militant Islamist groups, have moved inland from their previous concentration on the coast.



ARISE AFRICA

- Unfolded in Cabo Delgado and its surroundings from 2017 until now;
- Started in Mocimboa District
- Destruction Public and Private Infra-structures
- Massive population displacements
- Church Destruction
- Serious human rights abuses and killings;
- Complex humanitarian crisis.





- No reliable data about churches that were destroyed.
- No reliable data about how many Christians were killed.
- No reliable data about how many Christians were forced to convert to Islam.
- No reliable data about how many churches were rebuilt.
- No reliable data about how much the Church Contributed to alleviate the pain of displaced families.

Interpretation

Government, media, civil society and Church:

✓Marginalization of Cabo Delgado, one of Mozambique's poorest regions, and resulting high rates of poverty, socioeconomic inequality, and youth unemployment.

✓The state's displacement of some villagers and transfer of their traditional lands to the Total Gas Project, the perceived low share of gas sector jobs given to locals, disruptions of livelihoods, and the influence of foreign extractive industry actors have also driven tensions.

✓Curse of Natural Resources

My own understanding changed drastically after Lomé event. My vision has widen.

Interpretation continued

Government, media, civil society and Church:

The role of the Church:

✓From the early stage of Islamic insurgency in Mozambique the church was active;

✓Different church denominations, locally and internationally gave their support (first aid, spiritual, psychological);

We did not hear a common <u>loud cry</u> of the church…

Recommendations

Prayer / spiritual action:

✓Peace to the Nation (personal and collective);

✓Restoration

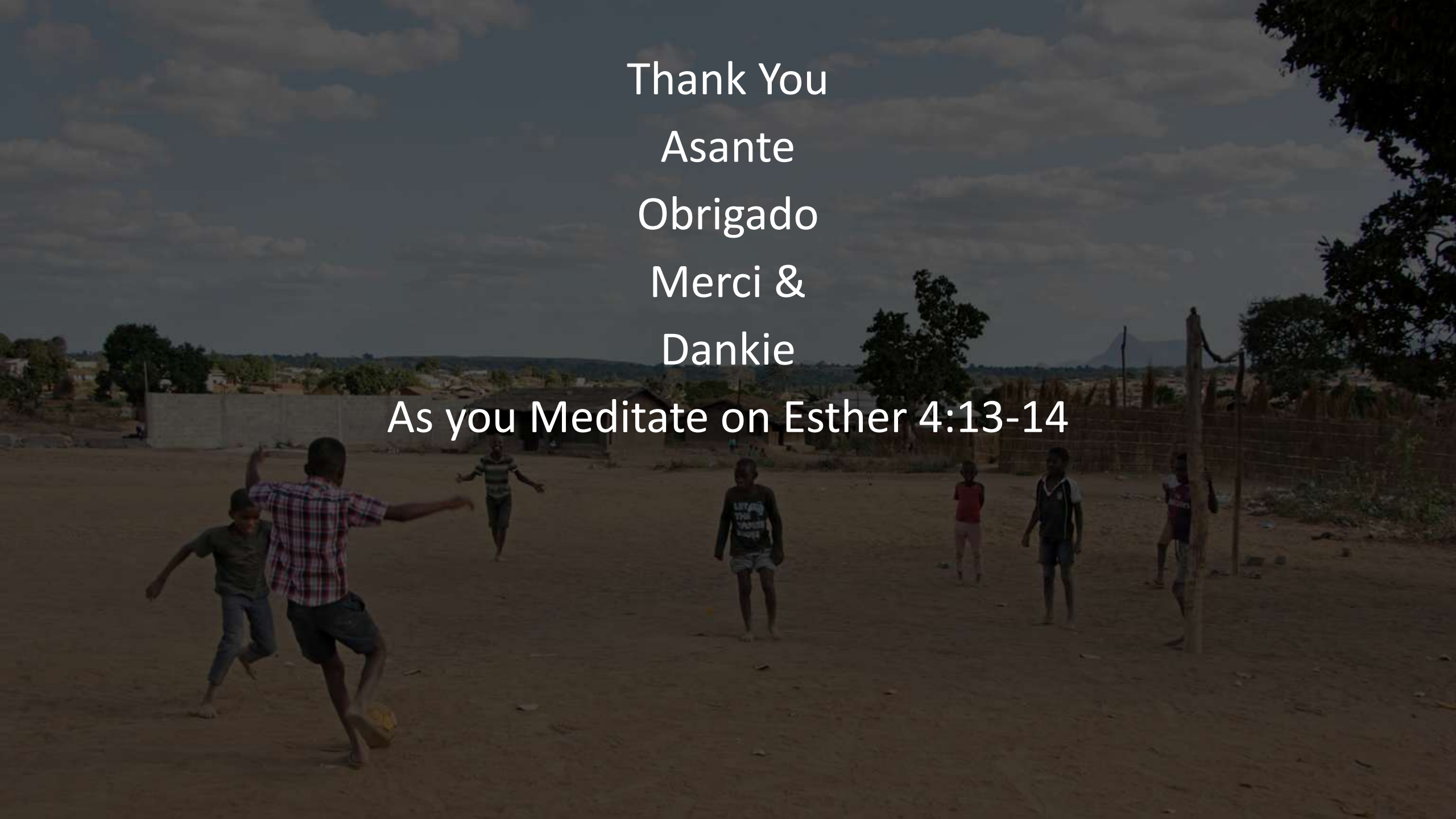
✓Reconciliation (forgive those who once were terrorists)-more that 100 terrorists returned to their villages.

✓Unity among

Recommendations

Physical action:

✓Coordinated support effort among Christian family;
✓Promote biannual religious conference (National wide)
✓Train Local Churches about giving psychological support to traumatized families;
✓Support local Church by rebuilding churches in affected districts
✓Build two skill training centers (one in Nampula) and another in Cabo Delgado-Pemba;
✓It has been reported as success story the strategy adopted by Mozambique on tackling Islamic violence in Cabo Delgado.


Thank You
Asante
Obrigado
Merci &
Dankie
As you Meditate on Esther 4:13-14