



AFRICA CENTER FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES

UNDERSTANDING THE ORIGINS OF VIOLENT EXTREMISM IN CABO DELGADO WEBINAR October 29, 2021

BIOGRAPHIES

PANELISTS (In alphabetical order)

Mr. Dino Mahtani joined Crisis Group as Africa Program Deputy Director in July 2019. He assists in developing the research agenda and shaping the analysis and reporting across the Africa program, as well as contributing to specific research across the various projects. Dino started his career as a journalist for Reuters, working on the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Nigeria. He subsequently reported as West Africa correspondent and then as Energy correspondent for the Financial Times. After retiring as a journalist, he was appointed to UN Security Council sanctions monitoring panels on DRC and Somalia. Prior to joining Crisis Group he served as a senior political advisor in the UN peacekeeping mission in the DRC. In recent years, he has also worked on donor-funded research into human trafficking from the Horn of Africa through to Libya. He is the author of the latest ICG report on Mozambique “Stemming the Insurrection in Mozambique’s Cabo Delgado”.

Prof. Adriano Alfredo Nuvunga, Ph.D. is a scholar and leading civil society activist in Mozambique. He is the director of CDD – Centre for Democracy and Development, a public interest, non-profit civil society organization contributing to the building of resilient, inclusive, democratic and rights respecting Mozambique society. Until May 2018, Prof. Nuvunga led the Centre for Public Integrity (CIP) the reputable anticorruption civil society organization in Mozambique. Prof. Nuvunga teaches political science and governance at the Department of Political Science and Public Administration, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Mondlane University in Maputo, Mozambique. He has published in scholarly article journals. He holds a PhD in Development Studies from the International Institute of Social Studies of the Erasmus University Rotterdam, The Netherlands.

Ms. Jasmine Opperman’s proficiency associates to methodological risk analysis and the management of intelligence processes (operations, counter-intelligence, covert activities and analysis). Ms. Opperman is qualified as a risk analyst and holds a Masters Degree in History at the University of Johannesburg (South Africa). Her aptitude emanates from 19 years employment in formal intelligence structures, at which time she attained the position of Provincial Head Eastern Cape Province. During her tenure as Provincial Head, she engaged in senior Government liaison, inclusive of Premiers, MECs and Ministers. Ms. Opperman was also commissioned as Senior Trainer at the Intelligence Academy, focusing on analysis, operational analysis, counter-terrorism, low-intensity conflict and intelligence management within a

constitutional democracy. She is also well versed in information management and the compilation of both tactical and strategic analysis products. Since leaving the intelligence community, she is responsible for tracking and the compilation of weekly Insights and Forecasts on Extremism and Political Violence in the Middle East and Africa.

She has published numerous articles for the local media and has also been interviewed by all major TV networks in South Africa and Internationally.

DISCUSSANT

Mr. Idriss M. Lallali is the Deputy-Director and concurrently Head of Alert and Prevention Unit at the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT) and is a member of the multidisciplinary team designated by the AU to launch the Centre.

Among his primary responsibilities are: leading the design and development of the Centre's Counter-Terrorism Early Warning System, managing a team of analysts that conduct policy analysis, studies, synthesis, and audits on terrorism in Africa. He previously provided assistance to consultants appointed by the AU to the African Anti-Terrorist Model Law, managed the Focal Point Community Database, and led the Monitoring Process of ratification of the African and Universal Counterterrorism Instruments. Mr. Lallali is also leading a team of experts that evaluate the Counterterrorism capacity of African Union Member States.

MODERATOR

Dr. Anouar Boukhars is professor of counterterrorism and countering violent extremism, at the Africa Center for Strategic Studies. Dr. Boukhars works closely with African government and nongovernmental security sector leaders on developing and implementing activities and programs relating to counterterrorism and countering violent extremism. His research focuses on the dynamics of radicalization and violent extremism in Africa.

Prior to joining the Africa Center, Dr. Boukhars was a nonresident fellow in the Middle East Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and an associate professor of international relations at McDaniel College. He has served on several advisory boards and committees on the Sahel and North Africa, including at the African Peacebuilding Network at the Social Science Research Council. From August 2015 to July 2017, Dr. Boukhars served at the Institute for Peace and Security Studies in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, as lead facilitator of its flagship program, the Executive Masters in Managing Peace and Security in Africa. His research has been published in numerous leading policy publications and academic journals. He routinely conducts fieldwork in Africa and consults frequently for the African Union, World Bank, United Nations, U.S. State Department, and European governments.

Dr. Boukhars holds a Ph.D. in international studies from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia; an M.A. in applied humanities from Al Akhaweyn University in Ifrane, Morocco; and a B.A. in English literature from Ibn Tofail University in Kenitra, Morocco.