

# Mozambique police and army exchange gunfire

Weekend  
Gaz.

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MAPUTO — Mozambican troops and policemen exchanged gunfire on Monday in the northern Mozambican city of Nampula, the Maputo daily *Noticias* reported on Wednesday.

The incident began when the police officers demanded to see, as they are entitled to, the identification documents of a soldier belonging to a military contingent hired to protect the property of Nampula private transport owners.

The soldier refused to identify himself and the policemen then suggested that the shoes he was wearing (identical to those issued to the police force) had been stolen.

The police demanded the soldier accompany them to the nearest police station. The man refused to obey, then physically attacked one of the policemen.

The police then drew their pistols and fired warning shots into the air. This alerted other soldiers nearby who rushed to support their colleague, guns at the ready.

In the shoot-out, the police were outnumbered and fled. They were chased by the soldiers to the Nampula provincial police headquarters.

During the shooting, an innocent bystander, a 16 year old girl, was seriously wounded and is currently under intensive care in Nampula hospital. It was not clear from the report whether the bullet that hit her had been fired by a policeman or a soldier.

The police command says he is investigating the matter. Soldiers have behaved in an undisciplined manner on many occasions in Nampula this year.

— Ziana-Aim-Pana