

# Mozambique News Agency

## AIM Reports

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### Carlos Cardoso murder trial update 29 November

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#### Lawyer protests, judge overrules

Maputo, 29 Nov (AIM) - Friday's session of the Carlos Cardoso murder trial at the Maputo City Court was delayed by a formal protest at the treatment of the five accused.

Defence lawyer Simeao Cuamba said that it was "shocking" and "inhuman" that on Thursday the accused had been brought into the court room in handcuffs.

"There are enough police to guarantee protection here", he said. "The police should take the handcuffs off outside".

The presiding judge, Augusto Paulino, found it strange that this protest should come from Cuamba, since the man he is defending, Anibal dos Santos Junior ("Anibalzinho"), has not entered the court room at all, with or without handcuffs.

Anibalzinho, who is accused of recruiting the death squad that murdered Cardoso and of driving their car, was illegally freed by persons unknown from the Maputo top security jail on 1 September, and is believed to have fled the country.

"I see no problem in the accused entering the court room in handcuffs", said Paulino. "Nobody claims that just because a person is handcuffed, he has already been tried and sentenced".

Paulino noted that at the start of the trial the accused had marched in jauntily, smiling, shaking hands with their lawyers, and "acting as if this is just a show".

He was determined to end such behaviour. "These are preventive measures", said Paulino. "It was necessary to discipline the accused. I have had to keep reminding the accused about their deportment, since they keep on smiling, as if this case was nothing serious".

"I see nothing in the law which says that the accused cannot enter court in handcuffs", he declared. "In some countries, the accused are put in cages".

#### More cheques from Nyimpine Chissano

Maputo, 29 nov (AIM) - Maputo loan shark Momade Assife Abdul Satar ("Nini"), one of those accused of murdering Mozambique's best-known journalist, Carlos Cardoso, on Friday handed over to the Maputo City Court three more cheques, signed by Nyimpine Chissano, the oldest son of President Joaquim Chissano.

Last week, Satar had given the court four uncashed cheques from Chissano Jr, each for 165 million meticaïs (about 6,930 US dollars).

Satar's defence is that he paid for the murder, but did not realise that the money was being used for a contract killing. He claims that Nyimpine Chissano asked him for a loan of 1.2 billion meticaïs - but the money was to be given, not to Nyimpine, but to Anibal dos Santos Junior ("Anibalzinho"), the man accused of organising the death squad that murdered Cardoso. Satar admits making four separate payments to Anibalzinho.

Chissano Jr was to repay the money with a series of post-dated cheques for 1.29 billion meticaïs. Since the cheques fell due between 24 October 2000 and 30 January 2001, one can work out that the extra 90 million meticaïs, which Satar describes as his "commission", is in fact an interest rate of over 45 per cent p.a.

Satar claimed that most of the money was never repaid: he says Nyimpine asked him not to cash the cheques, because he was in "financial difficulties".

As with the earlier cheques, the ones presented on Monday were all drawn on an account held at the cooperative bank Credicoop by Nyimpine Chissano's company, Expresso Tours. In the signature, the surname "Chissano" can be seen clearly.

Two of the cheques are for 165 million meticaïs and the third for 300 million. Taken together, the seven cheques do indeed total 1.29 billion meticaïs.

Two of the cheques indicate no payee, but the third is made out to a man named Tarmomede Vali Mahamed. Satar said he had given the cheque to Vali to be cashed - but when he contacted Nyimpine, the latter told him to recover the cheque and he would pay in notes instead. "So Vali returned the cheque, and I gave him cash", said Satar.

All three cheques had been partially redeemed by Nyimpine, Satar claimed, and he had kept a note on the back of the cheques as to how much money was still owing - five million meticaïs on one, 8.78 million on a second, and 18 million on the third (the one made out to Vali Mahamed).

According to Satar, Nyimpine Chissano had not redeemed anything at all from the four cheques presented in evidence last week.

As the judge has repeatedly complained, it is extremely difficult to understand Satar's financial transactions. No doubt the difficulty is deliberate, since he is an unlicensed and entirely illegal money-lender.

Nyimpine Chissano himself can certainly throw some light on the matter. He has been subpoenaed, and will be obliged to give evidence later in the trial.

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<http://www.poptel.org.uk/mozambique-news/newsletter/Cardoso5.html>