

Religious vehicle ambushed

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Two people died when an MNR bandit gang ambushed a car belonging to a Roman Catholic missionary in the northern province of Cabo Delgado, reported the daily paper Noticias on 4 July.

The two were patients being transferred from the town of Namapa to the hospital in the provincial capital, Pemba.

The bandits ambushed the car, wounding a Spanish nun, Maria Marcan. They then forced her and the driver, Fr Pedro Pagani, out of the car. After looting all their goods and documents, the bandits began to set fire to the car. The two missionaries begged them to take the patients out, but the bandits instead shot the two sick people dead, and then destroyed the vehicle.

The missionaries then walked for about six kilometres towards Pemba until Maria Marcan, who had been hit in the leg, could go no further. Two hours later they were picked up by a military convoy.

Fr Pagani described the bandits' behaviour as "inhuman", and carried out by "people who have no scruples".