

Independent Caprivi: Madness of a Few, Partial Collective Wish or a Reasonable Possibility? Reflections on the Forgotten “Strip” of Namibia

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The case of Caprivi in Namibia means one of the examples of independence movements within (multi) national states in the contemporary Southern Africa. The armed secession uprising in August 1999 (although quickly stifled by the Namibian government), begs the clear historical roots to this movement, as well as a popular perception of discontent by Caprivian citizenship, rather widespread at present.

My field experience in the Caprivian region has allowed me to compare, with various sectors of the local population, certain trends in popular awareness about both the events of 1999 as to the very idea of independence; also, about the widespread perceptions and the general feeling on the negligent representation of the Namibian government.

It is presented in this paper an approach to the various causes and roots in the recent history (and not so recent) of the independence movement and some key strokes of the current experience of the local population about their Namibian state's membership; finally, about the possibility, real or not, of an independent Caprivi (sufficiently equipped in terms of shared identity).