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MOZAMBIQUE

Support Network Newsletter

Vol.1 no.2

Nov. 87

MASSACRE IN MOZAMBIQUE

The South African-backed terrorists known as MNR have been increasingly active in Mozambique. On 29, Oct. at least 278 civilians were murdered and eighty vehicles destroyed near the town of Taninga fifty miles north of the capital Maputo. According to Mozambique Update #6 (11-6-87), the attackers numbered about 300, ambushed a convoy of passengers traveling from Maputo to Gaza, gunning down people as they tried to escape and setting fire to the buses and trucks.

The attack took place while the military escort was being changed and the Gaza relief force was not yet on the scene. Many of the victims, including small children, were burned alive, trapped inside the vehicles by the terrorists.

U.S. Ambassador Melissa Wells was among the diplomats taken to the scene of the massacre. She is reported to have commented "...this deserves no other words but banditry and terrorism".

RECENT HISTORY OF MASSACRES

MNR is sponsored by the South African government as a way to terrorize and try to demoralize the people of Mozambique. Children, the elderly and other civilians are the usual victims of these attacks. Mozambique is being attacked as part of an undeclared regional war launched by South Africa against the frontline states.

This war of destablity and atrocities carried out by the MNR for South Africa has taken a heavy toll on Mozambique. Health, education, and agriculture sectors are common targets of violence. Equipment, trucks, and goods donated by Western agencies and governments have also been destroyed, along with power stations and transportation centers.

The list of massacres include:

- Homoine 18, July 424 killed
- Majacaze 10, August 92 killed
- near Taninga 16, October 51 killed

The news from Mozambique is grim. However the army fights with valor and the people refuse to become discouraged. The challenge to governments and concerned people is to support Mozambique and call for more aid to Mozambique and mandatory sanctions against South Africa.

NEW MOZAMBIQUE SUPPORT NETWORK OFFICES

We're growing! New MSN offices have been started or will soon start in the following locations:

Atlanta
Wisconsin
Albany (NY)
Idaho
Michigan

REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

In response to a recent meeting with Consultant Prexy Nesbitt, a student coalition at the University of Michigan at Flint plans to establish contact with the University of Mozambique involving students and institutions. Funding for textbooks and other resources will be explored along with possible student exchanges.

Kevin Danaher of San Francisco, Mackie McLeod of Boston, and Prexy Nesbitt are currently traveling in Mozambique.

Co-chair Roberta Washington's group in New York is working to provide aid to Maputo Hospital in the form of material and staff.

A Chicago Alderman, Danny Davis, has agreed to sponsor a bill in the City Council condemning MNR and calling for more aid to Mozambique.

Paul and Andy Epstein, also in the New York area, have written a well informed, and moving editorial about their experience as Doctors in Mozambique and U.S. foreign policy. The piece includes a chilling account of treating patients who had extensive bleeding caused by uniforms sprayed with rat poison. Although the incident they recount occurred in the late seventies, it is typical of the extreme cruelty of MNR tactics.

AID TO MOZAMBIQUE

In addition to the fact that the Network is growing there is good news to share. Britain and other Commonwealth nations are offering military and economic assistance to Mozambique. This effort is aimed at protecting railways, ports and other development projects against attacks by South African backed guerrillas.