

# Explosions cause havoc in Maputo

27  
9  
85

Maputo (Reuter) — Mozambique yesterday was assessing damage caused by the massive explosions which rocked Maputo on Wednesday, killing at least four people and injuring 68 others.

Five of the wounded were critical in hospital, officials said, adding that many houses had been destroyed or damaged.

The Government has said the explosions, which began at 4pm and continued for nearly two hours, were caused by fire sweeping through a military arsenal near Maputo's international airport. They did not say how the fire began.

But in Lisbon, right-wing rebels who have been fighting President Machel's Marxist Government since Mozambique's independence from Portugal in 1975, claimed responsibility and threatened further attacks. The blasts occurred on the 21st anniversary of the start of the Mozambican war for independence against Portugal, declared a public holiday here.

Hundreds of Maputo residents who fled from their suburban homes during the blasts had returned, the government news agency said.