

# Zambian troops kill 33 Mozambican rebels

ZAMBIAN troops have killed 33 right-wing Mozambican rebels in a cross-border raid into Mozambique, the Zambia Daily Mail has reported.

The government-owned newspaper quoted secretary of state for defence and security Alex Shapi as saying that last Tuesday's raid by Zambian troops was in retaliation for recent rebel attacks on villages in Petauke district in eastern Zambia.

"Arising from constant harassment of villagers by

the bandits we pursued them 10 kilometres into Mozambique and knocked all of them down," the paper quoted Shapi as saying.

It was one of the biggest punitive raids this year mounted by Zambian forces against rebels of the Mozambican National Resistance (MNR) who are fighting to topple Mozambique's left-wing government.

Shapi said the troops recovered 30 rifles, including five old-fashioned

muzzle loaders.

Earlier this year, Zambia said its forces killed more than 70 MNR rebels in a major raid into Mozambique after the rebels stole food and cattle and killed a number of Zambian villagers.

Meanwhile bandits killed at least six people last Thursday night when they attacked the railway station at Pessene, 50 kilometres north of Maputo, railway sources have told AIM.— Reuter