

Briton is released by guerrillas

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By Our Harare
Correspondent

A BRITISH wild-life expert, Mr John Burlison, 28, who was seized by Mozambique guerrillas in December, was set free just across the border in Zimbabwe yesterday.

Mr Burlison, from Stockton-upon-Tees, was taken captive with a Chilean while working at Chitengo wildlife school in Gorongosa national park.

A month later his captors, members of the anti-government Mozambique Resistance Movement, said they had cleared him of suspicion of working for President Machel's Marxist Frelimo party secret police. They promised to free him "only when it is safe."

A British High Commission spokesman in Harare (formerly Salisbury) said that Mr Burlison was found walking in the rugged Inyanga Mountains near the border with Mozambique.

A Foreign Office spokesman in London said Mr Burlison



Mr John Burlison.

was being taken to Umtali, where he would be seen by a member of the commission staff.

After the kidnapping, the guerrillas sent Mr Burlison's parents a demand that a message for the "free world" should be published in newspapers and on television. This was complied with.

At the family home in Station Road, Norton, near Stockton-on-Tees, Mr Sidney Burlison, 58, said there had been five false alarms in as many months about his son's release.

"I haven't yet dared to tell other members of the family, but the more I hear, the more I am just beginning to believe it," he said.

Mr Burlison added he was grateful to the British Press for printing the statement which the guerrillas issued as a condition of his son's safe release.