

# 'Bloodbath' fears after exile is slain

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**MR ORLANDO Cristina, secretary-general of the Mozambique National Resistance Movement (MNR) who was murdered at a secret farm near Pretoria last weekend, died the victim of a power struggle within the ranks of the organisation he created 20 years ago.**

Now the head of the MNR's European mission in Lisbon, Dr Evo Fernandes, is expected to come to South Africa in an attempt to sort out the problems which may well cause a bloodbath within the ranks of the MNR movement.

A well-known leader of the exiled Mozambican Portuguese community in Johannesburg described the death of Mr Cristina as "the loss of a father".

"We are a very close-knit community, a family almost, and now we have lost our father," he said.

Mr Cristina, 46, the founder of the MNR whose body was found in his bed on a 'safe' farm about 50km from Pretoria, had been killed with a single gunshot in the neck. Police, still investigating the killing, have opened a murder docket.

"He died for what he most believed in," said a friend.

Sources close to the MNR said they believed Mr Cristina had been aware that he was a likely target for rebel elements within the organisation.

This was why, they said, he had sent his wife of three years and their baby son to

stay with her parents on the East Rand shortly before the attack.

It is thought Mr Cristina may have been assassinated by members of the M'Lhanga faction of the MNR — "otherwise they would never have reached him".

"Orlando was extremely security conscious and a superior weapons expert. Whoever killed him would have had to be very close to him," said a source.

Mr Lucas M'Lhanga, a former faction leader of the MNR, died in a gun battle between his supporters and followers of the present leader of the organisation, Mr Alfonso Dhlakama, in Zimbabwe in 1980.

And although Mr Dhlakama is now officially recognised as leader of the MNR, Mr Cristina was the true power behind the throne.

To kill him would be to strike deep into the heart and strength of the MNR.

Mr Cristina was a former member of PIDE, the Portuguese Secret Police, who infiltrated Frelimo in Dar Es Salaam in 1964.

He subsequently became private secretary to the Mozambican millionaire Mr Jorge Jardim, who organised and funded elite black military units to fight against Frelimo during the 10-year war of independence.

Shortly before independence Mr Cristina fled Mozambique to Rhodesia carrying with him all the files on the special units.