

# Defector Bomba is dead, says MNR

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Lieutenant Adriano Francisco Bomba, the Mozambican fighter pilot who defected to South Africa in an MIG fighter plane in 1961, is dead, say Mozambique National Resistance sources.

He was executed in Mozambique by the anti-government rebels whom he joined after fleeing to South Africa, the sources said.

They added that Lieutenant Bomba's brother, Boaventura, who also fled to South Africa in 1961, had also been killed.

Relating a bizarre tale of political intrigue, the sources

said Lieutenant Bomba was sent to rebel bases inside Mozambique in February 1983 after falling out of favour with the MNR leadership over a radio programme broadcast on the rebels' radio station, "The Voice of Free Africa".

He joined the Mozambique National Resistance in April 1982 after working for the South African Defence Force, which he joined in a civilian capacity when his request for political asylum was granted.

When he joined the MNR he was quickly promoted to the post of secretary of the Department of Information. His brother Boaventura was appointed political commissar at the same time.

The sources said that shortly after Lieutenant Bomba was sent to the Gorongosa mountains in central Mozambique, Boaventura was involved in a political row with

Mr Orlando Cristina, the then secretary-general of the MNR who was murdered in mysterious circumstances outside Pretoria in 1983.

"Boaventura accused Cristina, who was a white man, of being totally under South African control. The row reached such a level that the MNR president, Mr Afonso Dhlakama, wanted Boaventura to be executed for treason," the sources said.

"Ironically, Cristina convinced Dhlakama that the row wasn't all that serious and Boaventura was spared."

A few weeks later, in April 1983, Mr Cristina was shot dead near Pretoria in a crime for which there has been no official explanation.

However the MNR sources said the four-man group that killed Mr Cristina was headed by a guerrilla leader, John Macacola, who had been training a guerrilla band to perform acts of sabotage near the Mozambican border with Swaziland.

"Macacola was detained after being spotted leaving the murder scene. When he

was arrested the gun that shot Cristina, a 9 mm Parabellum, was found with him. His sabotage guerilla group had already left for Mozambique.

"It is now feared that Macacola was a Mozambique government agent," the sources said.

Macacola then confessed that Boaventura Bomba had been involved in the plot against Mr Cristina.

"Boaventura Bomba was arrested on April 19. Officially speaking, we can say that he has 'disappeared'," the sources said.

The Mozambique National Resistance has officially said through spokesmen in Lisbon that the murder of Mr Cristina was carried out by a four-man Frelimo hit team. The rebel movement said that the other names of the agents were "saboteur" and "political commissar". The latter had been sentenced to death a few months before for instilling "racist, anti-white ideas". This is an obvious reference

to the involvement of Boaventura Bomba in the plot.

The MNR officially further says that the agents who killed Mr Cristina had joined the movement in 1982, the same year the Bomba brothers joined the MNR.

"After the Cristina murder and the disappearance of Boaventura Bomba the fate of Lieutenant Bomba was sealed. He was killed inside Mozambique on orders of the MNR military leadership who always disliked the Bomba brothers and their political ambitions," the sources said.

The exact date of Lieutenant Bomba's death is not known. An MNR defector, Mr Constantino Reis, now living in Maputo, says he saw Lieutenant Bomba in June 1983 at a base in the Gorongosa mountains.

However, in the same month, MNR sources told *The Star* there had been "big problems" with the Bomba brothers which they could not disclose.