

## MNR's false propaganda

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LIKE MOST propaganda on behalf of the South African puppets who call themselves the "Mozambique National Resistance" (MNR), Eduardo Mandhlati's letter attacking Paul Fauvet (NA, March) is littered with falsehoods.

Take his claim that most MNR leaders are former members of Frelimo. In fact

many of them never had anything to do with Frelimo during the war for independence from Portugal. The current MNR General Secretary, Evo Fernandes, worked for the notorious colonial businessman, Jorge Jardim, on his newspaper *Noticias da Beira*, until mid-1974.

The MNR's representative in western Europe, Jorge Correia, who got himself a job in post-independence Mozambique in a Beira food-processing factory, never had any connection with Frelimo or its armed struggle. Correia's henchman in Lisbon, Paulo de Oliveira, is a journalist working on the extreme right-wing daily *O Dia*. Fernandes, Correia and Oliveira all hold Portuguese passports.

It is true that MNR President Afonso Dhlakama was once a member of the Frelimo army, the FPLM. He joined in October 1974 (ie after the war against the Portuguese was over) and was cashiered a year later.

As for the MNR's foreign relations officer, Fanuel Mahluza, he deserted Frelimo as early as 1963 – a year before the war began. There is thus no way that he can be described as a "former guerrilla".

Perhaps the most remarkable case is that of Adriano Bomba, listed in 1982 as the MNR's Information Officer. He joined the Mozambican air force after independence,

rose to the rank of lieutenant, and then defected to South Africa in 1981, flying his MiG fighter over the border. His brother, Boaventura, also fled to South Africa, and was likewise appointed to the MNR executive.

Men like these are not the brave anti-colonial fighters of MNR mythology. They are just traitors.

Mandhlati denies that Fernandes, or his predecessor Orlando Cristina, were agents of the Portuguese secret police. But he completely ignores a far more damning foreign connection – that with the Smith regime in Rhodesia, and later with South Africa.

The MNR was set up by the Smith regime's secret services (as testified by British, Zimbabwean, Mozambican and MNR sources). Their first activity was to create a radio station called *Voz da Africa Livre* (Voice of Free Africa) which gave its address, unashamedly, as a post box in what was then still Salisbury. Here is a brief sample of their propaganda: "Rhodesia has a government that works, and which carries out policies to improve the lives and happiness of millions of Rhodesians" (*Voz da Africa Livres*, broadcast of 12 July 1976).

How does Mandhlati square this with his support for "the politics of negritude"?

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