

The victims of terror

Parade 45
(Aug 1985)

AT Maputo Hospital are the survivors.

They arrive daily. Some from Boane, 27 km away from the capital.

Mrs Alda Xavier and her son Costa are two such victims. Her husband was killed, one of 15 to die from the same village during June near Boane. The villagers were made to strip and the bandits took their clothes. After they had been butchered with badzas, the bandits let some of the people go because, they said: "We have done enough for today."

She said: I hate the bandits

for what they have done. They killed my husband and injured my son."

SOFIA Goncalves is a beauty from Magude, near the border of Gaza Province.

She was shot in a contact between the army and the bandits in February. And what she doesn't understand is why she isn't getting better.

She'll never be really better because she was shot in the spine, which severed her spinal cord and she's paralysed from the waist down.

One thing is for sure, however, according to her mother, they will not be returning home, because there have been too many attacks there.

THREE men from Boane shared one ward in the hospital.

All were recovering from mindless violence a week earlier, which also took place in the region of Boane.

Mr Carlos Matsinia said they were attacked by men wielding knives, but he didn't know who the men were.

"They wore the same uniform as the soldiers, some were in civilian clothes. I don't know who they were."



One of the three men from Boane. He was stabbed in the chest.



Tenderly cared for by her mum, young Sofia will forever remember the bandits who shot her in the back and paralysed her for life from the waist down.