

TROOPS KILL TWO BANDITS IN MAPUTO

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MAPUTO.

THE Mozambican security forces killed two bandits of the South African-backed Mozambique National Resistance and wounded another on Monday night in the outer Maputo suburb of Tsalala.

The dead men were part of a group of about 20 who infiltrated the city under cover of night as far as the industrial suburb of Machava. There they murdered three people and wounded a woman now recovering in Maputo central hospital.

The bandits also blew up a petrol station. In the explosion a watchman, Ode Gamussene Comus-singa, received slight leg injuries.

The gang raided a shop and stole a radio, three sacks of rice, one sack of sugar, three boxes of soap and various domestic utensils.

Machava residents who had been kidnapped by the raiders said that the bandits appeared in Machava in uniforms identical to those of the

Mozambican soldiers.

They said that the bandits interrogated them about the security forces in Machava, and the location of the police station.

Ode Antonio Muianga, one of those kidnapped, said: "When they took me, we went first to the local administrative offices, then to the cinema, then to the petrol station. They ordered us to sit down while they put explosive charges round the petrol pumps. After that they shouted "Let's go, let's go, quickly."

As they were withdrawing from the city, the MNR gang were intercepted by Mozambican forces in the suburb of Tsalala. During the exchange of fire, Ode Muianga escaped.

However, the bandits ripped off a door from a hut, and used this as a shield. They retreated, taking some of their remaining hostages with them.

The raiders also opened fire on a bus, but the driver did not stop, and the vehicle was not damaged. — Ziana-AIM.