

Fleeing Mozambicans forced into MNR hands by Pretoria

Herald 15.12.86

Herald Reporter
SOUTH AFRICA is forcing fugitive Mozambicans back into the clutches of the MNR bandits, according to two American documentary photographers who have arrived in Zimbabwe from Johannesburg.

Tony Savino and Catharine Smith, both from the New York-based Impact Visuals, told The Herald at the weekend that Mozambicans fleeing MNR terror found themselves back

in the hands of the bandits if they, usually under extreme pressure, crossed into South Africa.

The two, who spent about 10 weeks in South Africa documenting the life of a people under apartheid, said most of the displaced people they had spoken to had told of "a reign of terror" by the South African-backed bandits.

On the situation in South Africa itself, they did not believe Pretoria would of its own will

dismantle apartheid.

"From what we have seen, only a combination of armed attacks, comprehensive mandatory sanctions and other domestic and international pressure will remove that system," said Mr Savino.

"It has got to be a multi-faceted kind of struggle," he said.

While in South Africa, the two visited many areas, including Crossroads and the black townships in Johannesburg, Durban, Cape Town and

other cities and towns.

"It is a police state in every way, with virtually every political organisation having members in detention."

On the number of people being killed every day, she said: "It's just genocide which the South African government is practising."

The two, who leave Harare next week, said they intended using their pictures in a slide show, photo exhibition and a pictorial book on South Africa.