

Malawi passes freed MNR hostages to Mozambique The 57 foreign nationals who were released by the Mozambique National Resistance (MNR) on 17th December, arrived in Maputo from Malawi on 19th December, Maputo radio reported. The hostages travelled to Maputo with the Mozambican delegation which had taken part in the second ordinary session of the Mozambique-Malawi Joint Commission. One of the hostages said in an interview for Maputo radio on 20th December that they were told that they had to go to Maputo, "because the two countries had good relations and they could not jeopardise them because of us". Another of the hostages said that they had not been kidnapped, but they had been forced to go to Maputo before they could go home". Speaking in Lisbon, Portuguese Foreign Minister, Pires de Miranda, said that Malawi's action in handing over the Portuguese hostages released by the MNR was "a regrettable incident and a grave matter", Lisbon radio reported on 20th December. Capital radio, Umtata, cited the MNR as saying that now that the freed hostages were in Maputo they would be interrogated by the Mozambican government for military information and that in view of this the group would not be releasing a further eight captives, as planned.

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