

Survivors recount the horror of Homoine massacre

H. 23 JUL 1987

MAPUTO.

SOME pregnant women died as a result of bullet shots in the abdomen when MNR bandits attacked Homoine village and the local hospital leaving at least 380 people dead on Saturday.

The women were in the local hospital where the

bandits also killed many patients and new-born babies, says Cde Carvalho Neves, a Mozambican official.

Cde Neves returned to

Maputo on Tuesday from Maxixe, a town some 30 km from Homoine in Inhambane province.

He told AIM yesterday that he spoke to several people on Monday who had run away from Homoine.

"I asked them why the bandits had attacked Homoine and they all replied: 'They came to kill!'"

He spoke also to some foreign technicians who had been to Homoine after the massacre and had helped remove and bury dozens of bodies.

"They were particularly shocked by what they had seen at the hospital where, they said, the bandits killed everyone they found inside, stole all the medicine and kidnapped a nurse."

Cde Neves said there could be at least 3 000 people dislocated from Homoine, roaming around in the bush or trying to reach Maxixe and Inhambane towns.

The bandits ransacked at least 12 houses and buildings, including shops and the local hotel.

Cde Neves said he had been told that by Monday night there was still the belief that many more people could be found dead in the surrounding areas. "The bandits kidnapped a lot of people, including children," he said.

According to earlier reports, some of those kidnapped were killed and their bodies found in the bush.

A Mozambican official said in Maputo on Tuesday that "hundreds of bandits" infiltrated the south of Mozambique from South Africa in the last two months. Their progress seemed to indicate that it was South Africa's intention to divide Mozambique along Gaza Province and isolate it from the capital Maputo.

The source added that South Africa concentrated a battalion on its border with Mozambique's Gaza Province near the Mozambican area of Mapulanguene. This battalion was to act as a protective shield for bandit infiltration, for their retreat and as a supply force for bandit operations within Mozambique. — ZIANA-AIM.