

Mozambique says massacre victims buried

MAPUTO, Mozambique (AP) — The government said Wednesday it had buried most of the 380 people reported killed in a rebel massacre, and the official news agency released grisly photographs of bodies.

AIM, the news agency, said the pictures were taken by a cotton mill worker on Sunday, a day after the massacre in Homoine, 300 miles north of Maputo. It did not identify the mill worker.

One photograph was of bodies stacked on a wagon. Another depicted a woman wearing hospital clothing and wrapped in a blanket. A third showed a man's body next to that of a child whose head had been crushed.

The Marxist government blamed the Mozambique National Resistance. The guerrilla group has been fighting since 1977, two years after independence from Portugal, and began attacking civilians in 1982.

Organization of African Unity officials said in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, that the 50-nation group condemned the massacre. Ministers preparing for the annual summit July 27-29 also asked the Mozambican government for more details on the killings, the officials said.

Mozambique claims South Africa's white authorities back the rebels and were "directly responsible" for "an act of barbarity which causes revulsion among all civilized nations."

South Africa's Foreign Ministry denied the charge, citing its repeated statements that it does not support the guerrilla group. The rebels also denied responsibility.

Communications in this southeast African country are poor and details of the massacre were sketchy. AIM, state radio and government officials said the rebels entered Homoine at

5.45 a.m. Saturday and began slaughtering people with gunfire, bayonets and knives.

Attackers entered a hospital and killed patients in their beds, pillaged the medical supplies and kidnapped a nurse, the reports said.

Some reports said townspeople were marched out of town and killed in the bush. Mozambique's ruling party, called Frelimo, said at least 70 people were hospitalized with serious wounds.

Carvalho Neves, labor secretary in 1982-83 told the news agency 3,000 people may have fled to the countryside fearing the attackers would return.

Neves was quoted as saying he had talked with "foreign technicians" who helped bury dozens of bodies and "told me they had never seen anything as horrible as that." He did not identify the foreigners.

The former official had been in Maxixe, about 20 miles from Homoine, the agency said. It quoted him as saying pregnant women were shot in the stomach and babies were killed.

AIM quoted a representative of the provincial trade office as saying at least 12 houses and other buildings were ransacked, including shops and a hotel.

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