

Victims of MNR massacre buried

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MAPUTO.

MOZAMBIQUE officials said on Wednesday that they had buried most of the 380 people murdered by the MNR on Saturday, and are searching the surrounding countryside for more bodies.

The politburo of the ruling Frelimo Party said at least 70 people were seriously wounded in the attack on the town of Homoine near the coastal city of Inhambane, and said neighbouring South Africa was "directly responsible" for

what it called "an act of barbarity which causes revulsion among all civilised nations".

It said all the patients in the local hospital were killed in their beds.

Radio Mozambique reported from Inhambane that the attackers used guns, knives and bayonets.

Cde Carvalho Neves, State Secretary for Labour in 1982 and 1983, told the national news agency AIM that 3 000 people may have fled Homoine to the country-

side fearing the attackers would return.

An American citizen, Mark Allan Van Koeving, may have been the very first person to photograph the aftermath of the Homoine massacre on Saturday.

He is not registered with the American embassy in Maputo. But an embassy source told AIM this is not unusual.

Alvaro Guimaraes, who works for the state secretariat for hydraulics in Inhambane Province, told Cde Neves, that he had

spoken to Mr Mark Koeving.

On Wednesday, Cde Neves told AIM that Mr Guimaraes had told him that the American citizen, an agronomist, had survived the massacre by hiding in Homoine's small hotel.

The current situation in Homoine is characterised by enormous shock and consternation among the survivors, according to AIM photographer Sergio Santimano, who returned from Homoine yesterday evening.

"Those who survived

the massacre are quiet. There is a heavy silence," he said. "And there is a great fear that the bandits may return. All the people I spoke to were almost in tears by the time I had asked my second or third question."

● It is reported from Lilongwe that about 7 000 Mozambicans have fled from the Mandimba District in the Niassa Province of Mozambique to Malawi in the past few days, SABC radio news reports. — Ziana-Sapa-AP-AIM.