

MUDZI MASSACRE

Family killed by MNR buried

Crime Reporter
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THE seven members the Mwanawambane family hacked to death with axes by MNR bandits at Joromani village, Nyamapanda, in the Mu-



INSPECTOR SIBANDA (right) points at a place where one of the bodies was picked up by the police several hours after the massacre. In the foreground are the remains of one of the huts which was gutted by fire.

dzi district last Thursday will be buried tomorrow.

Police at Nyamapanda, Zanu (PF) provincial officials and the local community were on Tuesday busy making arrangements for the burial to be held a few kilometres from the scene of the massacre, which is about 3 km from the border with Mozambique.

Council officials, party officials and the Press were accompanied by police to the scene of the massacre on Tuesday afternoon, where about 10 huts and granaries were burned down by the bandits after the massacre.

The member-in-charge at Nyamapanda police station, Inspector Cairn Sibanda, said this was the first atrocity the people of the area had experienced since the liberation struggle for Zimbabwe's independence.

Inspector Sibanda said only one member of the family managed to escape — a young boy — and none of the people from the nearby village saw anything apart from hearing the cries of those who were being killed in cold blood.

The nearby village has since been deserted as people have moved to other areas to seek shelter with the people there.

Nothing was recovered from the village. It is believed the bandits took what they wanted from the huts and crossed back into Mozambique.

Inspector Sibanda said the bodies were scattered all over the village and the mother of the family died with her one-year-old daughter, Katandika, on her back. One of the dead children had its feet eaten by dogs.

The people of the border area had moved back into the area after independ-

ence from protected villages because there are larger fields, where they grew mostly sorghum. Most of the crop had started germinating in the fields.

The body of the father of the Mwanawambane family, Cde Jim Phenias (49), was badly burnt, said Inspector Sibanda, adding that two other children had parts of their bodies cut off.

Police officer commanding the district, Chief Superintendent Gibson Munthali, confirmed that the spoor of the bandits showed that the gang had crossed back into Mozambique.

He said follow-up operations were in progress and the area was being heavily patrolled by security forces.

Apart from murdering the innocent civilians, the bandits burned a number of dogs and hacked at least one other dog with

an axe.

The other people massacred were Cde Phenias' wife, Agnes Jembe aged 45, Pondeke (5), Kamutsvairo (4), Jannet (3), Machiveyi (3) and one-year-old Katandika. One of the children had an axe stuck in the skull.

Meanwhile, police in Harare have reported that two people were shot and killed on November 24 when the lorry in which they were travelling was ambushed by a gang of bandits in Inyatha along the Gourlyays Ranch-Goodwood Farm road.

Seven other people in the lorry escaped unhurt. The spokesman said the deceased were identified as Cde Makhaki Ndiovu, a manager at Gourlyays Ranch and Cde Robias Sithole, a worker at the ranch.

Follow-up operations by the security forces are in progress.