

Mozambique rebels kill five

HARARE, Zimbabwe (UPI) — Rebels from neighboring Mozambique abducted 20 Zimbabwean students and mutilated eight; five of the captives were released uninjured and then killed by bandits, officials said Wednesday.

The rebels Sunday, abducted the 20 students, boys and girls of about the age of 15, from a school on the government - owned Tanganda tea estate at Chipinge on the southeastern border with Mozambique, officials said.

The children were herded across the border to Mozambique, they said. Five were freed but were killed by a bandit group following the main party.

Another seven students were released after their ears were hacked off, they said. One teenager escaped but was badly wounded, they said.

The remaining seven students were eventually freed and allowed to return to Zimbabwe unharmed, officials said.

Tea estate officials said the rebels left notes saying civilians would continue to be targets until Zimbabwean troops based in Mozambique are withdrawn.

Zimbabwe has several thousand troops in the neighboring territory helping it to combat the anti-Marxist rebels from the Mozambique Resistance Movement.

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