# MNR bandits massacre 14 villagers in Sofala

**MAPUTO.**

BANDITS of the South African-backed MNR massacred 14 people in an attack on a village in the central Mozambican province of Sofala on Sunday, according to a report in the Diario de Mocambique newspaper.

The MNR struck in the early morning at the village of Mucodza, about 15 km from the town of Gorongosa and the motive for the raid, says the paper, was to steal food.

A local garrison of the Mozambican armed forces fought back, and eventually forced the bandits to withdraw. Ten bandits were killed in the fighting, while one was taken prisoner.

Many of the 3 000 inhabitants of Mucodza fled in the direction of Gorongosa town.

The paper also reports that from January to October this year Mozambican troops destroyed 12 MNR camps in Mossurize district in the central province of Manica, bordering Zimbabwe.

According to Mossurize's administrator, Cde Jose Macaruje, the destruction of the MNR bases made it possible for the authorities to re-establish control over four of the district's localities — Madeure and Chizuo in northern Mossurize, and Cita and Ciaco in the south of the district.

In Mbabane, Swaziland, armed gangs believed to be MNR bandits are reported to be terrorising and robbing Swazi nationals living in the Swazi-Mozambique border village at Lomahasha.

Villagers said the gunmen, armed with AK47 rifles and other automatic weapons, forced their way into their homes and took away food.—Ziana-AIM-Pana-Sapa