

# SA banditry acts disrupt education in Mozambique

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BY the end of 1987, South African aggression against Mozambique had resulted in the destruction or paralysis of 45 percent of Mozambique's primary education network.

According to a document prepared by the United Nations Children's Fund and the Mozambican government after a meeting held last week to reformulate programmes aimed at the welfare of women and children for the 1990-1995 period, the war waged through the MNR bandits had led to the destruction of 2 629 primary

schools, depriving around half a million children of their education.

In secondary education, 22 schools were forced to close, affecting 8 000 children. Thirty-six boarding homes were closed, affecting more than 5 000 students.

The bandit onslaught on education directly affected 6 750 primary teachers and 204 secondary teachers. Three teacher training colleges were closed, but were later reopened in new locations.

The document says that a crime much worse than the destruction of

school buildings and equipment is "the physical and moral violence" to which the bandits have subjected thousands of children.

These include not only orphaned and mutilated children, but also children used by the bandits to commit crimes. The MNR "is corrupting the as yet fragile fabric of affective relations and family values of these children, it has removed them from the paths of solidarity and justice, it has cut them off from society transforming the children into accomplices in atrocities". — Ziana-AIM.