

SA lawyer to defend 'MNR' man

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SOWETAN Africa News Service

A SOUTH African lawyer will travel to Maputo next week to help in the defence of an Australian citizen facing charges of helping the Mozambique National Resistance movement, sources in the organisation said yesterday.

The sources said the lawyer had been approached by friends of the accused Mr Ian Grey (26), who was detained in Mozambique in November and will be tried by a military tribunal.

The sources said that Mr Grey will be defended by a state defence lawyer but it had been decided to send a South African lawyer to help in the defence and monitor the trial.

Arrangements for the South African lawyer to travel to Maputo were in their final stages.

Mr Grey was arrested in Mozambique on November 2 on one of several visits through Mozambique to the Zimbabwe headquarters of the fundamentalist group, Shrikinah.

The Shrikinah is funded by American Mr Tom Schaff, a vociferous campaigner for the Mozambique National Resistance, (MNR).

Last month Australian Foreign Minister Mr Bill Hayden made a trip to Maputo during a tour of Southern Africa during which he tried to persuade the Mozambican authorities to release Mr Grey. His mission failed.