

"Destruction areas" have been designated by RENAMO in north, south and central portions of the country, according to the source.

Such areas, he said, often comprise villages of more than 40 families or refugees who had left Mozambique and then returned.

Attacks on such areas are "well prepared in advance," he said.

RENAMO forces will often proceed directly to the homes of government representatives, "take them and in some cases their wives, their children, their in-laws, their parents, and execute them in front of their fellow villagers."

The action is "intended to be a demonstration" for those who might be sympathetic to FRELIMO, he added.

The source recalled one particular example of RENAMO violence, where a village chairman was "axed in the head" and his "entire family put back in the house and burned alive, while the local villagers were forced to watch."

RENAMO soldiers have also surrounded villages and "fired indiscriminately into its homes as people tried to escape."

Looking to the future, the source speculated that "if the level of murder continues as it is today, (it is) certain tens of thousands of people are going to continue dying in the same manner."

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