



RESISTÊNCIA NACIONAL MOÇAMBICANA RENAMO

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STATEMENT ON REFUGEE REPORT

1. The State Department report issued today about the Mozambique refugee situation discredits itself. The report cannot be considered "research" at all. It is politically commissioned and politically motivated. It is also intellectually dishonest and the "research" methodology of the so-called "independent" contractor is questionable.

For example, the "researcher" failed to research what should have been his primary source, ie. RENAMO. He did not visit RENAMO zones despite RENAMO President Afonso Dhlakama's longstanding invitation to visit liberated Mozambique. He also failed to speak with RENAMO Representatives despite their availability at offices in the United States, Canada, and Western Europe.

If the "researcher" had contacted me, I would have organized a visit to the areas of his request for as long as he wished and with full freedom of movement. Or I could have referred him to numerous journalists, missionaries, and policy analysts who have conducted honest research inside Mozambique. These people are unanimous in their reports. A few include the following:

A. Kindra Bryan - American missionary nurse, who travelled for three months in the Mozambican bush, described RENAMO in the Washington Post, "The soldiers seemed disciplined and will organized and appeared to have a good relationship with villagers, who in turn seemed to recognize them as the government."

B. Peter Godwin - in the Sunday Times of London and the Wall Street Journal quoted a Zimbabwean army sergeant fighting for FRELIMO inside Mozambique, "All behind us is RENAMO, as far as we are concerned they have won this war. These RENAMO are good., They control the countryside. The local people support them."

C. Jane's Defence Weekly - the respected British military journal reports, "The people appear to prefer to live in the resistance's "liberated areas", where they have their own fields and can grow crops as they wish."

D. Holger Jensen - former bureau chief of Newsweek writes, "The villagers appeared to be on good terms with the guerrillas. Everywhere we were met with smiles, mangoes, bananas, sugar cane and water."

E. Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick - criticized the State Department policy which ignores RENAMO as an excuse to serve only the FRELIMO side, "communism's systematic use of food as a political instrument for control is one of the most tragic political facts of this last twenty years."

There is no excuse for not knowing the facts. Chester Crocker has refused to meet with RENAMO and deliberately keeps American policy in Mozambique in ignorance and unreality. RENAMO welcomes visitors, anytime, anywhere. On the other hand, FRELIMO restricts all visitors to times and places of their own choosing. Who is hiding what? What are they hiding, and why?

2. Anyone who knows the theory of guerrilla warfare knows that guerrillas depend on the support of the people. RENAMO could not be operational in 85% of the country without popular support. In order to disrupt RENAMO's support, FRELIMO and Zimbabwe have conducted scorched earth policies to dislocate the rural people and re-locate them in "refugee camps" under government control - the same tactic being used today by the Ethiopian regime.

3. Interviews by the "researcher" were conducted in countries friendly to the FRELIMO regime. It can hardly be expected that traumatized refugees will speak to foreign "researchers" confidently and candidly. How does an unsophisticated villager differentiate between a RENAMO guerrilla, a FRELIMO soldier claiming to be a RENAMO guerrilla, a Zimbabwean pseudo-guerrilla, or a deserter from any of the several foreign armies operating inside Mozambique?

4. FRELIMO and its Marxist allies have embarked on a systematic program pseudo-guerrilla operations and massacres to discredit RENAMO politically in the international media and to alienate the populus from RENAMO and destroy RENAMO rural support base. An ex-Rhodesian Army officer, Lionel Dyke, (now a Colonel in the Zimbabwean Army), was reprimanded during his Rhodesian service for unauthorized use of pseudo tactics. Col. Dyke is now leading Zimbabwean soldiers inside Mozambique using those same tactics.



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