

"control" areas and often catch civilians and execute them before their fellow villagers and family members.

"Tens of hundreds of thousands of people" were living under these violent conditions. In addition to the high level of violence, Mozambicans were also facing drought which had reduced food levels and caused starvation conditions.

Because of such conditions those lucky enough to escape were arriving in Malawi looking "extremely starved and wasted and naked".

The third type of area, "destruction" areas, had been designated by the MNR in the north, south and central parts of the country and such areas were often villages of more than 40 fam-

ilies or displaced people who had left Mozambique and later returned.

Attacks on such areas were "well-prepared in advance", said the source. MNR forces would often proceed directly to homes of government representatives and "take them — and in some cases their wives, their children, their in-laws, their parents — and execute them in front of their fellow villagers".

Such action was "intended to be a demonstration" for those who might be sympathetic to Frelimo.

BURNED ALIVE

One example given of MNR violence was a village chairman "axed in the head" with his "entire family put back in the house and burned alive while the local

villagers were forced to watch".

MNR bandits had also surrounded villages and "fired indiscriminately into homes as people tried to escape". Said the source: "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."

The Frelimo government's human rights record had improved, said the Usis source. Civilian complaints against Mozambican government armed forces tended to be "isolated incidents that took place in remote areas". Independent observers said they had perceived a "sustained trend towards improvement in Frelimo human rights practices".

These same observers rejected the concept that the

high level of violence in Mozambique could be attributed to "freelance bandits not associated with Renamo or Frelimo".

SANCTUARY

Because of the conditions created by the MNR, the number of Mozambicans seeking sanctuary in neighbouring countries had swelled over the past year by 300 percent to 872 000. There were 450 000 in Malawi, 75 000 in Zimbabwe, 30 000 in Zambia, 225 000 in South Africa, 72 000 in Tanzania and 20 000 in Swaziland.

If present conditions continued the number outside Mozambique would reach a million by the end of the year. There were also more than 1,5 million people displaced inside Mozambique. The population of Mozam-

bique was estimated at about 14 million.

To help these people the US had given more than US\$4 million for assistance in Malawi, more than US\$30 million to the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and \$14 million to the International Committee of the Red Cross to be used for African refugees. The US Agency for International Development was providing 15 000 tonnes of food for Mozambicans in Malawi.

The expert who did the report for the US state department was no fly-by-nighter, according to Herald sources. He spent three months in Mozambique, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Zambia, Swaziland and Tanzania talking to more than 200 displaced Mozambicans and many other sources both official and

unofficial, or what he called independent.

The report is the most extensive prepared by any agency on Mozambique and besides its detail its great importance also rests on the fact that it is a US report meant for Americans.