

are still very afraid that the bandits may return and reoccupy the district.

Despite the repeated declarations by the Malawian government that it is opposed to the destabilisation of Mozambique, the local authorities in Milange say that the MNR continues to use Malawian territory both as a refuge and as a launching pad for attacks into Mozambique.

The bandit force, estimated at about 2,000, that attacked Milange in 1986 entered from Malawi. District administrator Captain Rufino Kantumbianga and a 500-strong Mozambican para-military force resisted as best they could, but eventually had to retreat into Malawi. Here they were detained for 48 hours before being repatriated to the Mozambican province of Tete, which lies on the other side of Malawi.

"At that time, Malawian support for the bandits was plainly on view", White Levison, another refugee who has returned from Malawi, told AIM. "In prison they maltreated us. Several members of the Malawian security forces said that Renamo (the Portuguese acronym for the MNR) was going to teach us a lesson".

At Milange, the frontier remained in operation even during the bandit occupation. But while the MNR was in control, Mozambican refugees in Malawi were forbidden from crossing the border and re-entering Milange. Likewise, the people on the Mozambican side who had fallen into MNR hands were not allowed to travel into Malawi.

The same did not apply to Malawians. "The Malawians were always coming to Milange looking for firewood, iron and zinc sheeting", another former refugee told AIM.

Other refugees, who also asked that their names be withheld, said that during the MNR occupation white people coming from Malawi frequently visited Milange.

Now the situation has been reversed. Now it is only the Mozambican refugees who are authorised to come to Milange to gather firewood, or grass for the roofing of their huts, or to visit relatives who have been freed from MNR control.

Representatives of Mozambican companies told AIM that they now have "important information" provided by their former workers who are now refugees in Malawi, on the current whereabouts of some of