

Armed Forces Report Bandit Defeats in Provinces *M10 News Review (135) 18/8/88*

The Mozambican armed forces (FPLM) killed at least 97 bandits of the South African backed MNR and captured 11 others between 27 July and 3 August in eight of Mozambique's ten provinces, according to a source in the FPLM General Staff on 4 August.

The source said that 36 bandits were killed in Zambezia province; 10 in Manica and 8 in Sofala, all in the centre of the country. In the southern provinces, 14 were killed in Inhambane, nine in Gaza and four in Maputo. It was also reported that 11 died in the northwestern province of Tete and four in the northern province of Nampula. Five bandit camps were taken by storm, and five MNR advance posts overrun, in the same period. Two bandits surrendered to the authorities in Gaza, and have benefitted from the law on amnesty. They are to be handed over to the Mozambican Red Cross.

Forty-nine bandits of the South African backed MNR were killed between 8 and 13 August in three provinces, a source in the Mozambican General Staff revealed on 16 August. Troops killed 26 of the bandits in pursuit operations following the destruction of an MNR camp on 10 August at Chinga in Nampula, 12 died at Mongue, in Zambezia, on 12 August, and the remaining 11 bandits died in fighting in the southern province of Gaza. During the same period 60 bandits in Moma district, on the Nampula coast, surrendered to the army to take advantage of the amnesty.

The Mozambican military source also said that bandits had murdered at least 12 people and injured a further ten in three ambushes last week against civilian vehicles travelling along the country's main north-south highway. The ambushes all took place in the area of Macia, in Gaza province, about 140 kilometres north of Maputo. Information reaching Maputo from the northernmost province of Niassa indicates that the Mozambican units stationed there killed 40 bandits and destroyed 31 MNR camps in the first half of this year.

AIM - 16/8/88