

**Renamo Launches Raid in Eastern Province 31 Jul**  
*MB0508172288 London BBC World Service in English*  
*1615 GMT 5 Aug 88*

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] Rebels of the Mozambique National Resistance Movement, Renamo, have launched another raid into Zambia's Eastern Province. Zambia has vowed to give the rebels a hard time if they cross the border, and it is the first such raid across the border since last May when Zambian troops killed three [number as heard] rebels in a hot pursuit operation into Mozambique territory. From Lusaka, Roger Hearing reports.

[Hearing] News of the latest attack, which took place last weekend, has only just been released in Lusaka. According to official reports, a small group of rebels crossed the border from Mozambique, under cover of darkness on Sunday night [31 July], and attacked some houses near the town of Chadiza. They abducted one woman and severely injured another with a bayonet. The Zambian

forces in the area are reported to be investigating the incident. But, the minister of defense, General Malimba Masheke, told me no retaliatory action had yet been taken.

There have been a number of MNR raids over the border in the last year. In May, the Zambian Government said its forces had killed 73 MNR when they followed the rebels back into Mozambique after a raid on Zambian territory. Following that incident, President Kaunda said the Mozambique Government had given its permission for the Zambian retaliation and warned the MNR could expect further such reprisals.

There has been speculation that there could be a similar response to this weekend's attack. General Masheke said it was one possible option, but no action has yet been decided on. The previous Zambian responses have been quite effective in keeping the border quiet, but small raids by what he called groups of bandits, were bound to happen occasionally. The border was long and difficult to patrol, he said. Nevertheless, the defense forces had a responsibility to protect the population in the border areas.