

STRUGGLE AGAINST BANDITRY CONTINUES

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MNR Bandit Confirms Continued South African Support

A former MNR bandit who has accepted the amnesty offered by the Mozambican Parliament, the People's Assembly, has confirmed that supplies for the bandits were landed on the Mozambican coast last year by the South Africans. Anuario Macume (18), quoted in the daily paper Noticias on 30 August, said that he took part in the transport of weaponry from a bandit base in the coastal district of Vilanculo, in the southern province of Inhambane, in 1987. "I was told that the ammunition came from South Africa and had been unloaded by boat", he said.

Macume said he had been recruited earlier in 1987. He did not join the MNR willingly but was abducted. "When I was kidnapped, they forced me to hack a prisoner to death with an axe", he said. "Then they took me to a camp in Funhalouro District. Macume said that he took an opportunity to escape from the MNR when he was given a mission to reconnoitre an army position in the district of Marracuene, about 30 kilometres north of Maputo.

A bandit who surrendered at the same time as Macume, Alfredo João Manhiça, also 18, said "I ran away because I couldn't stand that kind of life anymore. We were forced to keep constantly on the move and we suffered from hunger."