

FPLM, MNR Clash at Malova Training Center
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[Text] Many bandits were killed by our armed forces in Inhambane Province on 13 October when they tried to attack the Malova Political and Training Center in Massinga District.

A total of 175 armed bandits were involved in the operation. They were led by Fanuel Joao Massinga, a so-called southern Vilanculos sectorial commander, who was killed in action with 42 other armed bandits. During the operation, our armed forces also captured 18 AKM weapons, pistols, 1 60-mm mortar, 2 boxes of AKM and (RG) ammunition, and 1 81-mm mortar shell. The armed bandits who were killed included intelligence and health chiefs as well as a mortar commander.

During the operation our armed forces also captured 24-year-old Samuel Joao Massinga, from the mortar section in the armed bandit ranks. Massinga told Mozambique radio that many bandits would like to turn themselves into the Mozambican authorities, but they are afraid to do so because armed bandit ringleaders say that Frelimo kills all those who surrender. However, despite being captured, Samuel Joao Massinga is well treated and has called on other bandits to abandon the path of crime.

[Begin Massinga recording] There is immense suffering in the armed bandit ranks. We are not paid and are not compensated for our activities. There is a shortage of clothing and we wear what we are able to steal from civilians. I did not desert, because ringleaders say that Frelimo kills all those who surrender. Thus, many people die in armed bandit camps because of water and food shortages. Since my capture at the Malava attack, I have been well treated. I would like to call on other bandits to lay down weapons and surrender to Frelimo, because the amnesty law gives everyone the opportunity to participate in our country's reconstruction. [end recording]