

Refugee Centre in Sofala Attacked

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A group of South African backed MNR bandits killed six people on 25 September in an attack against a centre for returning Mozambican refugees in the district of Nhamatanda in the central province of Sofala. The Nhamatanda District Administrator, Braz Sidassicua, told AIM on 5 October that the attack on the Muda centre took place in the early hours of the morning. The bandits entered the centre silently under cover of night, and then attacked the huts built by the former refugees. They stole food and clothing that had been given to the centre by the local branch of the Mozambican relief organisation, the Disasters Control Office (DPCCN). Mr Sidassicua that in addition to killing six people, the bandits abducted a further eleven, five of whom managed to escape and make their way back to Muda.

The Muda centre was established in January 1988 in order to resettle displaced Mozambicans returning from Zimbabwe and Malawi. Currently, the centre houses about 2,000 people. This is the first time it has come under MNR attack. Mr Sidassicua added that on the same day, Mozambican troops repelled an attempted bandit attack on a centre for displaced people at Jasse, also in Nhamatanda District.

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