

MNR 'Intelligence' Member Cites RSA Support
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[Text] A leading member of South Africa's MNR bandits, who had surrendered to the Mozambican authorities in Gaza Province earlier this month, has said that the bandits are still receiving supplies from South Africa.

The former terrorist, (Lopes Sitole), who is well-known in his own district of Manjacaze, surrendered on 10 October. He said that although he had never been present personally at any resupplies, he knew that weapons and special goods for MNR leaders continued to arrive from South Africa.

(Sitole) said in southern Mozambique resupplies are made through a so-called provincial base in the region of Goba, near the border with South Africa and Swaziland.

He said he belonged to the MNR military intelligence [word indistinct] and that he had been trained by a terrorist who had himself returned from a course in South Africa.

When he surrendered after running away from the MNR bandits at Cuamba, about 80 km from Manjacaze town, (Sitole) brought with him a rifle and documents, including three military maps, and eight other people. These were two wives and six [words indistinct] who had been kidnapped by the MNR. (Sitole) said that the situation in MNR camps was now difficult because of lack of food. He spoke of hunger and summary executions of people captured by the terrorists. He estimated that in his base about 30 people died every month because of hunger.

(Sitole) said that he had witnessed 10 prisoners murdered in cold blood in August last year, after a bandit attack on Manjacaze town in which about 100 people were massacred. (Sitole), like other former bandits who have surrendered, is benefiting from the amnesty laws passed by the Mozambican parliament, the People's Assembly, last December.