

Mozambique

***Tribal Differences Divide Renamo**
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[Text] Disagreements within the Mozambique National Resistance (Renamo) movement, which is combating the regime of the Mozambique Liberation Front (Frelimo) with the support of South Africa, has caused a split within the organization, government sources in Maputo have announced.

Some months ago, Gimo Phiri, one of the military leaders of the Renamo, left Afonso Dhlakama's movement and founded his own organization, the Mozambique National Union (Unamo).

This schism was announced several days ago by Chivaca Joao, an alleged Renamo leader in Lisbon who made statements in Maputo after having deserted last week.

Chivaca Joao said that the split came about as a result of tribal quarrels. The Renamo is headed by members of the Ndaue ethnic group, which is located mainly in the provinces of Manica and Sofala in the center of the country. The language of this group is similar to that spoken by the Shonas, the dominant linguistic group in neighboring Zimbabwe.

Afonso Dhlakama and a majority of the Renamo military commanders are Ndaus, and Gimo Phiri left the Renamo precisely in order to protest against this domination, the same government sources in Maputo say.

The majority of the guerrilla fighters in the groups based in the province of Zambeze, in the northern part of the country, chose to follow the dissident Phiri, these sources added. However, they pointed out that the establishment of the Unamo resulted from the collapse of a coalition dating back to 1982.

In that year, Phiri, who headed the Revolutionary Party of Mozambique which had its headquarters in Malawi, had agreed to support the Renamo at the request of its then secretary general, Orlando Cristina.

Again according to the sources interviewed by FRANCE-PRESSE, this merger allowed the Renamo to operate from Malawi, a charge which the local government has always denied.

Orlando Cristina was fated to die the following year in South Africa. According to the Mozambique authorities, he was killed at a Renamo training camp 40 km from Pretoria.

It is being asserted with a certain satisfaction in the capital of Mozambique that this split represents yet another setback for the guerrilla movement, which the regime in Rhodesia has promoted in order to combat its opponents in Mozambique, who have opposed the government in Maputo since the country won its independence in 1975.

In this connection, it is being noted in Maputo that Chivaca Joao's desertion follows another which occurred last March, when Paulo Oliveira, the Renamo spokesman in Europe, surrendered to the Mozambican authorities.