

DESTABILISATION CALENDAR

Note: This is not a complete listing of South African backed MNR bandit attacks, Mozambican forces' offensives, people killed or acts of sabotage that took place in February 1989. Due to the poor state of communication in the country, many bandit attacks in remote areas do not even come to the knowledge of the media.

1988: Nampula Health Sector: MNR bandits killed five health workers and kidnapped 12 in the northern province of Nampula. During the year the bandits looted 26 health units and damaged another seven, partly paralysing the health services in rural Nampula, especially in the districts of Murrupula, where they completely destroyed the rural hospital, and in Memba.

January 1989: The Mozambican armed forces (FPLM) killed 122 MNR bandits in operations in the southern province of Inhambane. In the same period 11 bandits were captured in that province and five MNR camps overrun. The FPLM operations were in response to a fresh infiltration by about 500 bandits, divided into three into the north, west and south of the province.

5 January-17 February 1989: 3,591 people starved to death in Memba, a coastal district about 1,600 km north of Maputo and 200 km northeast of the provincial capital, Nampula city (see pp. 4-5).

February 3: MNR bandits killed at least 27 people and kidnapped 40 others when they attacked the sugar centre of Maragra, about 70 km north of Maputo. The bandits also destroyed two tractors, a warehouse and looted two shops.

In a follow-up operation, the FPLM killed four bandits and freed some of the people kidnapped.

February 5: Bandits killed 11 people and wounded 16 in an ambush against a passenger train in the region of Movene, about 55 km northwest of Maputo and 15 km east of the South African border.

February 10: Ten people died and another nine were wounded when bandits attacked a truck at Mazumunhama, about 100 km south of Maputo.

February 11: Bandits killed two people and destroyed two shops on Josina Machel Island, in Manhica district, about 80 km north of Maputo.

February 14: Eight people died, 23 were wounded, and 39 were kidnapped when MNR bandits attacked the town of Manjacaze, about 200 km north of Maputo, in Gaza province (see pp. 14-15). The attack began at about 4 a.m. The bandits withdrew from the town at 3:30 p.m. after clashing with Mozambican units who arrived from nearby regions. Ten of the raiders were killed and two captured.

February 14: MNR bandits killed eight and wounded four in an attack on Mumeo village, 25 km northeast of Maputo and 5 km from Marracuene, an important district capital in Maputo province. It was the third attack on the village since 1985.

February 15: Four people were killed and two wounded when a civilian vehicle was ambushed by MNR bandits in the central province of Sofala. The vehicle, belonging to the national road maintenance company, was ambushed about 35 km west of the port city of Beira, on the road that links Beira to Zimbabwe.

February 15: The FPLM killed 23 bandits when they captured two MNR bases in Inhambane province.

February 16: Eleven people were killed and 39 wounded when MNR bandits attacked the town of Magude, a district capital in the northwest of Maputo province. An unspecified number of people were kidnapped.

February 16: MNR bandits sabotaged the power-line carrying electricity to the central port city of Beira. The sabotage took place in the district of Nhamatanda, about 100 km west of Beira.

February 17: Bandits killed eight people and wounded 50 in an attack against a passenger train in the region of Movene, about 55 km northwest of Maputo. The train was heading for Maputo from Ressano Garcia.

February 19: Bandits attacked the town of Macia, 140 km north of Maputo, killing eight people and kidnapping many others. They looted seven shops, three of which they then set on fire, and destroyed 23 cars and trucks and two buses.

February 21: MNR bandits killed two people in an attack on the small town of Changalene, about 55 km southwest of Maputo. Changalene is in the district of Namaacha, about 10 km east of the border with Swaziland. In the pre-dawn raid, the bandits destroyed 76 houses and two trucks and looted the town.

February 22: MNR bandits returned for a further attack against Macia, but were unable to enter the town, due to responding fire from a Mozambican military unit.

February 27: Mozambican troops stationed at the communal village of Tique-Rique in Gondola district, in the central province of Manica, killed five MNR bandits and seized a quantity of weaponry.

The bandits had launched a pre-dawn raid against the village, burning down 18 houses and looting.

February 1989: The FPLM destroyed 13 MNR camps and killed 166 bandits. Among the camps eliminated was one at Namagigo in northwest Cabo Delgado province. In central Mozambique camps were captured in the districts of Mocuba and Maganja da Costa in Zambezia and in the south, bandit bases were overrun at Dindiza and Fungane in Gaza province.

March 1982-March 1989: MNR bandits have murdered at least seven Roman Catholic priests: two Mozambicans, four Portuguese, one Italian.