

Renamo Captures 3 Red Cross Officials in Memba

*MB2103185989 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese
1730 GMT 21 Mar 89*

[Text] Three workers of the International Committee for the Red Cross [ICRC] and a member of the Mozambican Red Cross have been abducted in Memba, Nampula

Province. Official Mozambican sources report that this occurred during an attack against Memba on 16 March. This afternoon, (Martin Allemano) of the ICRC's Information Department in Maputo confirmed to Radio Mozambique that those four people are currently in the hands of the armed bandits. (Martin Allemano) says this information has been conveyed to the ICRC headquarters in Geneva by sources connected with the armed bandits.

Some 5,000 people have already died in Memba since the beginning of this year because of the war and famine facing Memba district. The armed bandits attacked Memba on 2 March and looted a large portion of the food aid sent there by the Mozambican Government and international organizations.