

## SOUTHERN AFRICA: IN BRIEF

**Zimbabwean troops claim killing of 50 MNR "bandits"** (Text) Harare, 10th October: A Mozambique Resistance Movement [MRM] general and about 50 "other bandits" were killed in a recent mop-up operation by Zimbabwe National Army [ZNA] troops on the Zimbabwe-Mozambique border, the national news agency ZIANA reported on Tuesday [10th October]. Quoting from the latest

edition of a Zimbabwe defence force magazine, it said four MNR bases at Chicamba, Mapunga and Rwenya river along Zimbabwe's eastern and north-eastern border with Mozambique were attacked and completely destroyed by the forces, but did not say when this happened. It said the "bandits" were on the run. Brig Willings Zimonte, who commended the operation, told the magazine that the "bandit" general, simply called Samuel, was killed at Rwenya river base where the longest and probably the fiercest battle of the four was fought, with the ZNA troops taking up to five hours to destroy the camp. "I think this base was one of the MNR strongholds, and the resistance faced by troops during the fight clearly indicated to me that someone of a superior rank was inside. There was an exchange of heavy fire for about an hour and we discovered that the base was heavily mounted and closely guarded due to the presence of a general there", he said.

Brig Zimonte said that the recent mop-up operation against the "bandits" had "drastically reduced" their activities along the border with Mozambique and warned that, should the MNR continue to terrorise Zimbabwean civilians, the forces would be "more than ruthless". He said the Zimbabwean troops, who had penetrated about 40 km inside Mozambique during the attacks, recovered a large quantity of arms and ammunition at the MNR bases. Meanwhile, Brig Zimonte has urged Zimbabwean living along the eastern and north-eastern borders with Mozambique to be vigilant and to report any suspicious people to the security forces. Brig Zimonte assured the people that the army was at their disposal, should they come across such people or any information regarding MNR "bandits" in the area. "The bandits are on the run and they could be anywhere in these areas seeking refuge", he said. (SAPA in English 2010 gmt 10 Oct 89)