

MOZAMBIQUE: Defence Minister in eye of cyclone

General **Alberto Chipande** is expected to be replaced shortly by a civilian, probably **Feliciano Gundana**, as Mozambican Minister of Defence. Mr Gundana currently holds the post of Minister of State Administration. He belongs to the *Ndau* ethnic group, and comes from the region of Buzi in the province of Safala from where the principal leaders of the RENAMO also hail. His appointment is apparently to facilitate the integration of rebels into the government army should RENAMO and FRELIMO reach an agreement.

Meanwhile, during a debate session on the proposed constitution (ION N°426) in Moamba, Alberto Chipande admitted having been asked about **Uria Simango, Joana Simeao, Mateus Gwendjere** and **Lazaro Kavandame**. Considered by the leaders of FRELIMO as "traitors" and "reactionaries" during the War of Liberation and arrested in 1974, they were apparently executed without a trial in 1983 in Niassa province. For a while now it has been rumoured that the families of Uria Simango have been very active in trying to establish the truth. Two of his sons, engineers employed in Maputo, appealed to President **Joaquim Chissano**.

The leaders of FRELIMO seem to fear legal proceedings if a new constitution is adopted. Alberto Chipande is said to have made it clear that "under no circumstance" would he stand trial. He added that, "if someone wants to take me to court, I will ask him to form a bench with judges from the Liberation War."

*I.O.N.- Uria Simango, a Ndau from Sofala province was accused of being involved in the assassination of Edouardo Mondlane in February 1969 and was expelled the following year from the FRELIMO where he had been vice-president. After taking up residence in Kenya, he returned to Beira in 1974. Mateus Gwendjere, also a Ndau from the province of Manica and a Catholic priest, was teaching at the FRELIMO Institute in Tanzania and was expelled from the party at the same time as Simango. Joana Simeao, a Macua from Nampula province, was a member of GUMO with **Maximo Diaz**, who is today leader of MONAMO based in Lisbon. Of Maconde origin, Lazaro Kavandame was arrested on a charge of incitement to separatism in Cabo Delgado province. Their execution in 1983 came at the same time as the war flared up again. **Samora Machel** is said to have given the order for fear of the RENAMO rescuing them.*