

MNR bandits kill woman in Mudzi

H. 11/6/90

Herald Reporter

MNR bandits recently murdered a woman, kidnapped a 14-year-old girl and set fire to an old woman's home after looting houses at a village in the Gozi area of Mudzi in continuing attacks on civilians in the north-east border area of the country.

The woman, Cde Dinah Kuwaronza, widowed two years ago, was shot on the evening of June 3 at the fireside outside her kitchen hut.

She leaves a four-year-old child. She was buried last Thursday.

The abducted girl's father, Cde Phineas Sande, said his daughter Margaret was picked out by four bandits from three other children in the hut they were sleeping in with her mother. The bandits re-

fused an offer by her 16-year-old sister to go in her place.

After this they looted the village, stealing household items including a radio, blankets and kitchen utensils and bags of maize and peanuts. They then set fire to the hut of Cde Sande's mother and the old woman lost all her belongings and grain in the raid.

In all, five families totalling 30 people were affected by the attack. Twenty-one of them were children. Officials from the Heal the Wounds Campaign and the Red Cross Society have already started distributing food, blankets, clothing and tents.

Meanwhile, the Provincial Administrator for Mashonaland East, of which Mudzi is part, Cde Martin

Makwehwa, said the solution to bandit attacks was resettlement in security planned villages. He said the sites were there and boreholes had already been sunk.

"The bandits are cowardly and look for isolated villages, attack and flee back to Mozambique. Some of the victims have illegal dealings with the bandits and they are killed when they don't keep their side of the bargain," he said.

A deal in which four bags of mbanje were to be sold on behalf of MNR bandits was discovered recently. Sometimes Zimbabweans sell the mbanje and keep the money and in such cases that the bandits follow and attack them, said Cde Mukwehwa.