

SAP accused of training MNR

MAPUTO, Mozambique — The Mozambican army has accused South African Police of training anti-government rebels, Aim national news agency reported yesterday.

If true, the South African assistance would violate a 1984 treaty between the countries in which South Africa pledged to halt all aid for the rebels known by their Portuguese acronym Renamo.

The government of President Joaquim Chissano has often accused South Africa of violating the accord, a charge South Africa denies.

An SAP spokesman referred questions to the Foreign Affairs department. A Foreign Affairs spokesman said he needed more information on the Aim report before commenting.

Aim reported the Mozambican Armed Forces issued a statement that said "elements linked to the South African Police" recruited young Mozambicans and trained them in "sabotage, ideological subversion, terrorism and reconnaissance".

It said South African military planes recently flew Renamo recruits to rebel bases in the provinces of Sofala and Gaza.

The statement also accused police in neighbouring Malawi of setting up Renamo bases near Mozambican refugee camps inside Malawi. It said ambulances intended to serve the refugees were instead used to rescue Renamo fighters.

More than one million Mozambicans have fled to Malawi because of the 15-year-old civil war that has claimed more than 600 000 lives. — Sapa-AP

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