

3000 mourn Ruth First

MAPUTO — About 3 000 mourners, including Mozambican Government leaders, attended the funeral of South African academic Professor Ruth First on Monday.

Professor First, who had been a leading opponent of apartheid, was buried beside the graves of 13 members of the banned African National Congress of South Africa.

The 13 died in a South African commando raid on Matola, near Maputo, last January, the Mozambican news agency Aim said.

The exiled Professor First was killed last week by a parcel which exploded in her office at the Eduardo Mondlane University's Centre for African Studies. The ANC has blamed South Africa for the explosion, which injured three others.

Her husband, Mr Joe Slovo, exiled leader of the South African Communist Party, followed the coffin with the

couple's three daughters and Professor First's mother.

Speakers at the funeral included the Frelimo secretary for economic policy, Mr Marcelino dos Santos, and the general secretary of the South African Communist Party, Mr Moses Madh da.

Speakers stressed that although Professor First had been a member of the Communist Party central committee and a leader of the ANC, she had played no direct role in planning ANC actions in South Africa.

Mozambican police have said the parcel bomb originated in the Washington - based Southern African Development, Information and Documentation Exchange.