

## A University Scarred by South African violence

A somber plaque greets visitors to the *Centro de Estudos Africanos* (CEA) at Mozambique's Eduardo Mondlane University: "Assassinated for the cause of science, peace and freedom. Aquino de Bragança, 1928-1986. Ruth First, 1925-1982."

Founding CEA director Bragança died with the late Mozambican President Samora Machel, in the October 19, 1986, plane crash on South African territory. First, an exiled South African sociologist active in the African National Congress (ANC), died when a letter bomb exploded in her office at CEA where she was research director. Another ANC intellectual, former South African political prisoner Albie Sachs, lost his right arm and narrowly escaped death April 7th, when a car bomb exploded as he opened the door of his Honda, parked across the street from the South African trade mission in downtown Maputo. A legal scholar on leave from Eduardo Mondlane University, Sachs heads the research department at Mozambique's Justice Ministry.

Though South Africa refused to confirm or deny responsibility, "no one familiar with the region has any real doubt who planted the bomb: agents of the government of South Africa", *New York Times* columnist Anthony Lewis, a friend of Sachs, wrote after the blast. Lewis said South Africa is "now very likely the prime example of state terrorism in the world."

South Africa attacks intellectuals because it fears their ideas, said CEA director Sergio Vieira. If so, CEA must seem especially dangerous to Pretoria because one of its main research projects is a series of studies on southern Africa's "post-apartheid future."

Violence has a painful personal impact on many of Eduardo Mondlane's 2300 students, adds Jose Negrao an assistant to the rector. Though Maputo is militarily secure, half the students come from rural areas and many of them have "lost their family life, so the university becomes the same as their parents", he said. "Students whose families were kidnapped, whose families were killed all feel the pressure of war". Students at other institutions are equally hard-hit. "Many seminarians haven't seen their immediate family for years," said Father Luigi Morell, an Italian missionary teaching at the Catholic seminary in downtown Maputo.

"Only those who come from the cities don't have a relative who was killed by RENAMO," said Eusebio Innocencio, a 21 year old seminarian from Tete Province. "RENAMO wanted to kill my parents because they are both teachers," said Innocencio, whose family fled its home village in Tete's agriculturally rich Angonia district three years ago. RENAMO "doesn't want such educated people to live, because they know that those who can use their heads won't go with them," Innocencio said. "When they arrive in a village," he added, "they make a list of their enemies - the political leaders, the teachers, and all who work in government."

South Africa-sponsored violence may demonstrate that Pretoria is militarily stronger than its neighbours, acknowledged Vieira. But he insisted that this violence is also a sign of South Africa's ultimate helplessness in the face of powerful ideas like non-racialism and majority rule, he said. In South African black townships "they write on the walls in Portuguese *a luta continua*" (the struggle continues), the most famous slogan of Mozambique's anti-colonial struggle, Vieira noted. "You don't see any Mozambicans writing Afrikaans slogans on our walls. Morally and intellectually, we have the power and they are very weak." ●