

Citizen Reporter

NO official application for political asylum has been submitted yet by the Mozambique Air Force pilot, Lieutenant Andriano Bomba, who was forced to land his MIG 17 fighter jet at Hoedspruit on Wednesday.

The Department of Internal Affairs, which handles such requests, has received no application from him. It is also unlikely to receive anything within the next few days as he is still at Hoedspruit where he is being questioned by military authorities.

When he was forced to land at Hoedspruit air force base in the Eastern Transvaal, he immediately requested political asylum. His request was conveyed to Pretoria by telephone but he has to submit an application himself.

The Department of Foreign Affairs has confirmed that the Mozambique authorities have been informed that Lieut Bomba

MiG pilot: No request yet for asylum

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had been ordered to land at Hoedspruit after he had crossed the border.

Although he crossed the border in a warplane which had loaded weapons, he is not regarded a prisoner-of-war because South Africa is not at war with Mozambique.

Furthermore, the military authorities believe, after initial interrogation, that he is genuine defector and he is in safe custody of the military authorities only until they have completed questioning him.