

## Herald Reporter

**AT LEAST 100 000 Mozambican civilians have been murdered in the past two years by MNR bandits and countless others have been subjected to an "extremely high" level of violence, according to a report prepared for the United States state department.**

The report, prepared by an expert who spent three months in Southern Africa talking to hundreds of people, notes that the MNR is just a bandit organisation with no political programme.

In a Washington briefing on Tuesday for the United States Information Service, the expert, described by the Usis report as a US state department source, said the relationship between the MNR and civilians inside parts of Mozambique "revolves exclusively around a high degree of extraction of labour and food".

The MNR provided "virtually no services, no protection, has no political programme and makes no effort to explain the purpose of its effort. The only reciprocity which the civilian population appears to hope for or to expect from Renamo is the possibility of remaining alive".

### SYSTEMATIC

During his trip to Southern Africa the Usis source said he had received "hundreds of reports of systematic patterns of forced portering, forced marches, looting, rape, burning and destruction of villages, severe beatings, abductions and mutilations by Renamo". MNR violence was "systematic and co-ordinated, not spontaneous undisciplined".

Usis reports their source as saying that the MNR has divided much of Mozambique into three distinct areas: for tax; for control; and for destruction.

Tax areas were sectors where the MNR collected food as a tax from independent farmers. "In the context of those visits, there are murder of people who are deemed to be collaborators with Frelimo."

Conversations with those who had fled the tax areas also revealed, the source said, that there was "virtually no political content to the (MNR) programme, no effort to explain why they are collecting food, (no effort) to win the loyalty or even the neutrality" of the people.

In "control" areas, where

the MNR had "prevalent control of a certain geographic region", those who escaped told of forced work with long hours in MNR fields "with no share of the food which they participate in producing, no remuneration, no services, no protection. And if they slow down, if they rest, if they resist working, they are severely beaten".

Others had been used in forced marches, he said, to carry food, ammunition and supplies from one area of Mozambique to another.

### EXECUTED

Most of those who couldn't continue — and particularly the older people who were used as porters — were beaten to death or executed".

The escapees also reported that MNR units patrol

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