

## S African Comment Urges Compromise in Angola and Mozambique

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Text of commentary:

From the latest reports, it is clear that the political violence in Angola and Mozambique is growing steadily worse. After years of conflict that has divided virtually the entire population of each country in a military confrontation aggravated by foreign intervention, there are still no signs of any breakthrough towards re-establishing peace. Thousands are still dying violent deaths, tens of thousands have become homeless refugees, and hundreds of thousands are starving.

Mozambique and Angola are being destroyed because of their internal political disputes. They are not the only countries in southern Africa that have suffered for this reason, but the suffering there has been and still is far worse than anywhere else. In each of these countries the groups that are at war - the MPLA and UNITA in Angola, and Frelimo and the MNR in Mozambique - seem to be more or less equal in strength. Neither side is able to defeat the other and rule the country effectively and peacefully. The fighting can achieve nothing but much more death and destruction and yet it continues.

In the end southern Africa will have to face up to the fact that there can be only one solution to such a situation. It can be solved only when the opposing parties realise that they will have to come together and negotiate over their disagreements and be prepared to compromise with one another. It is time to give negotiation and peaceful co-existence a chance.