

# MINISTER CALMS MAPUTO DEMO

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MAPUTO.

**FURIOUS** young Mozambicans yesterday wrecked the Malawian embassy in Maputo, and then confronted Mozambican police outside the South African trade mission in the city.

Mozambican Security Minister Cde Sergio Vieira visited the scene and helped to bring the demonstration outside the South African trade mission under control.

Speaking through a megaphone, Colonel Vieira told the youths, "Comrades, I want you to behave as disciplined Mozambican citizens.

"We don't allow you to behave as vandals. Breaking windows is not a revolutionary act. When we waged war against Portuguese colonialism, and then the Smith regime we didn't do so by breaking windows."

The demonstration was organised by the OJM, Mozambique's youth movement, to protest against the death of President Samora Machel in unexplained circumstances in a plane crash in South Africa on October 19.

Reports say the OJM intended to hand messages of protest in to the Malawian embassy and the South African trade mission, but at the Malawian embassy the staff present refused to accept the message.

A crowd estimated at several thousands many of them secondary school students, burst into the embassy. Some climbed to the roof, took down the Malawian flag and burnt it. Others ransacked the building.

Colonel Vieira warned that there were probably "agents provocateurs" in the crowd who had come to besmirch the name of Mozambique so that it could be described by its enemies as a country of rioters.

A force of policemen from the "Rapid Intervention Police" managed to keep most of the crowd from entering the South African trade mission premises, but youths continued to stone the building.

Colonel Vieira circulated amongst the crowd asking them to go home from the top of a small truck. The demonstrators eventually dispersed.— ~~Zimbabwe~~ AIM.