

Refugees Allegedly Massacred

Radio Maputo reported on August 13th that "forces of the racist army of Ian Smith had launched an attack against the national territory on Monday, 9th, killing 618 people. The attack was launched early that morning against the village of Nagomia, situated about 40 km. from the frontier with Southern Rhodesia, and where several thousand civilian refugees from Zimbabwe were gathered. The aggressive forces used vehicles of various types in the attack, including armoured cars, and also used uniforms identical to those of the FPLM, according to the newspaper *Noticias da Beira*. The same source adds that defenceless men, women and children were massacred, and that the forces of Ian Smith blew up the bridge over the River Pungue, on the road between Chimoio and Tete, also killing civilians travelling by car. Road transport in the areas has stopped."

The Mozambique press, on August 14th, published articles and photographs of the massacres in Nagomia. The Maputo newspaper *Noticias*, reported that by August 13th, 620 bodies had been recovered; a member of the health service said, however, that the total number would be even higher. The health worker said that when the massacre began the people fled to the bushes, many of them were wounded and may have died there. The newspaper said that in one hospital alone about 300 wounded had been taken in by August 12th. Other victims had been taken to different hospitals.

The paper said that journalists who visited the camp after the massacre described it as "a scene of horror". The ground was still covered with bodies. Many of the corpses were completely burnt. Survivors told reporters many of the victims had been shot, others run down by the "Rhodesian racist military vehicles" and others burnt alive inside their houses. (R. Maputo 13-14/8)