

Kidnap reports fire up Maputo lynch mobs

Argus Africa News Service

MAPUTO. — At least three and possibly as many as eight people are said to have been killed by lynch mobs in Maputo after reports circulated that children were being abducted in the city.

Crowds tried to storm a police station where suspected kidnappers were being held.

The newspaper Noticias said the lynchings began after the news media had reported on Tuesday that a Mozambican who usually lives in South Africa had been arrested on suspicion of kidnapping children.

'MISSING'

The newspaper said that in December six children were listed missing in two suburbs of Maputo.

Later that day crowds gathered in several parts of the city and "any stranger seen talking to children was in danger of his life," says the Mozambican news agency Aim.

One man was burnt to death and another was beaten and stoned to death by a mob in the suburb of Ferroviario de Mahotas after he allegedly gave sweets to children.

In the suburb of Maxaquene a man identified as Justino Ma-

cie was attacked by a mob while sitting in a truck.

He was beaten to death and his truck was burnt.

The owner of the truck, Di-que José Cossa, told Noticias he did not know why Mr Macie should have been suspected of kidnapping.

As far as he knew, Mr Macie had been waiting for a mechanic he had arranged to meet.

MOB AT STATION

Aim reports that a large crowd gathered outside a police station where two suspects were being held and demanded that they be handed over.

When the demand was refused the crowd tried to storm the police station and the police fired shots into the air.

Argus

11/1/1991