

Nationalist

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HOW AFRICANS ARE TORTURED

One of the White Fathers expelled from Mozambique in May has alleged systematic torture of Africans in security prisons there.

At a press conference in Rome yesterday, Father Cesare Bertulli said instruments used included hippopotamus hide whips, the "palmatoria" — a sort of perforated circular wooden bat for beating feet and hands — and small wooden cylinders on which victims were forced to kneel till they fainted.

He said thousands of Africans had been through this treatment.

He also claimed that Papal messages and sometimes even the gospels were censored and he denounced the "deafness" of most Mozambique Bishops. He thought a persecuted Church preferable to a dumb Church.