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## **Prisoners Get New Conditions**

The prison services announced on 4 April that prison conditions for 17 men, including three foreigners, jailed under the country's security legislation, are to be relaxed.

The 17 men had all been tried and sentenced to varying prison terms between 1979 and 1988 by the military revolutionary tribunal. This court has now been abolished, and civilian courts, the provincial people's tribunals, now hear security cases.

The 17 will enjoy a "moderate prison regime" instead of a "severe" one. This means that they will be transferred from prisons run by the country's security service, SNASP, to ones operated by the national prisons directorate, which is part of the Ministry of Justice.

They will now be able to receive visitors every 15 days, and will enjoy greater freedom of movement. Previously they spent most of their time in cells: now they will be able to work in open prisons, returning to their cells at night.

Among the three foreigners affected by this order is Australian Pentecostal missionary Ian Grey, who was sentenced to ten and a half years imprisonment in 1988 for his collaboration with the South African backed MNR bandits. The other foreigners are a Kenyan, Peter Nguila Che, and a Sao Tomean, Carlos Gamboa Valerio.

Most of the Mozambican prisoners were found guilty of offences linked to MNR banditry.