

Death and prison sentences for MNR members in Mozambique (Excerpts from PANA dispatch datelined Maputo, 18th May) Mozambique's military revolutionary tribunal has sentenced to death four [as received] members of the South African-backed "Mozambique National Resistance" (MNR), and two [rest of sentence indistinct]. A communique from the tribunal published today gives details of these cases and of eight Mozambicans and one Kenyan sentenced to prison terms ranging from five to 30 years. Its [words indistinct] death sentence (?Alberto) Macano, (?Anton T.) Gazin and Jossias Manhate "carried out murders and acts of terrorism against unarmed civilians", says the communique. "They ambushed vehicles, murdered their occupants, and looted the people's possessions". . . But the case which the tribunal appears to consider most serious and which is dealt with first in the communique is that of a Mozambican soldier, Salvador Ngovene, and his accomplice Machalela, who illegally crossed the frontier into Swaziland in order to commit armed robbery. . .

A Kenyan citizen, Peter Nguila Che, received a 30 year prison sentence for espionage, mercenarism and working for the MNR. The communique says that he had been recruited as a mercenary in Nairobi by an agent of the American CIA, after which he received military training in South Africa. This is the first time that the military tribunal in its deliberations has linked the CIA with banditry in Mozambique. Nguila then worked for the South African secret services, at first at a desk in South Africa, preparing dossiers on the politics and economies of the independent states of the region and drawing up plans "for political, ideological and military subversion". Later he was ferried in and out of Mozambique by South African [rest of sentence indistinct]. He was sent into Tanzania to spy on members of the South African liberation movement, the ANC, living there. He was arrested when returning to South Africa through Mozambique. One of those sentenced to death, Antonio Chirindza, joined the MNR shortly after its creation in the mid-seventies. . . [Passage omitted - largely indistinct - on prison sentences for the others accused.] (PANA in English 1126 gmt 18 May 86)