

Mozambique

Maputo Car Bomb Victim in 'Critical' Condition

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[Text] Maputo, April 8 (AFP)—South African lawyer and [word indistinct] activist Albie Sachs, who was maimed in a car bombing here Thursday [7 April], is in a "critical" condition following a major operation, according to doctors at the central hospital here. The doctors amputated what was left of Mr. Sachs' shattered right arm. They told reporters Thursday night that he had sustained "multiple internal injuries," and that his condition remained "very serious." Also in a critical condition is a 33-year-old Mozambican man, Ismael Mussagy, who received serious head injuries when he was struck by flying metal from the blast.

The Mozambican media have blamed the explosion on the South African Government. A front-page editorial in the [word indistinct] newspaper "NOTICIAS" Friday declared that, because he had committed the "crime" of "openly challenging the racist regime the Pretoria government" decided that Albie Sachs should die. Linking the Maputo bomb to South African raids and killings, or attempted killings, of Pretoria's opponents in Paris, Gaborone, Lusaka, Bulawayo and Maseru, the "NOTICIAS" editorial said "[word indistinct] the sinister hand of a terrorist state, of an increasingly arrogant and aggressive regime, of a beast increasingly thirsty for blood." The paper calls on "all Africa and all mankind" to "isolate, fight and liquidate" the apartheid regime.

Radio Mozambique in a Thursday night commentary suggested that the South African trade mission here was involved in the bombing. "All the assassins had to do was cross the street," remarked the radio—a reference to the fact that the bunker-like buildings of the trade mission are on the opposite side of Julius Nyerere Avenue from the apartment block where Albie Sachs lived and where his car exploded.