

Mozambique

Suspects Seized in Slaying of Fernandes

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[Text] Lisbon, May 3 (AFP) — Three Portuguese suspected of murdering former Mozambican rebel leader Evo Fernandes have been arrested abroad and their extradition will be applied for, Portuguese police said here Tuesday.

Alexandre Chagas and Joaquim da Conceicao Messias were caught on Friday at Casablanca in Morocco, and Manuel Jorge Pinto da Costa was picked up the next day in Paris. International arrest warrants had been issued for them.

Mr Fernandes, 44, at one time secretary-general of the Mozambique National Resistance (Renamo) movement and then its spokesman based here, was found riddled with bullets in a field on April 21 a dozen kilometres (seven miles) from his home at Cascais near here.

He had disappeared three days earlier after dining in a Cascais restaurant with Mr Chagas. Mr Fernandes's widow said she believed Mr Chagas to be an agent of the Mozambique secret service.

The Mozambique Government has denied anything to do with the killing.