

The knives are out now for 'Devil Eyes'

By **CHRISTINA
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DEFECTOR Jorge Costa was still in hiding this week as South Africa's Portuguese community called for his blood.

The community accuses the former Mozambique security boss of illtreating and torturing many captives who were held in Mozambique jails. There is a strong demand that he be sent back to his own country.

The 30-year old Costa defected to South Africa on June 7 while visiting the country on police business. A storm of protest immediately erupted among local Portuguese, many of whom claimed that Costa was a sadist who tried to justify his position as a white in the Mozambique police by treating prisoners with extreme cruelty.

He was nicknamed 'Devil Eyes' by prisoners who experienced his unwavering, blank stare.

The Ministry of Defence and the South African Police probably regard Costa as a big catch because of his knowledge of Mozambique's internal affairs and he is believed to be undergoing intense debriefing by Security Police in a secret location.

Meanwhile Portuguese who arrived in South Africa after Frelimo took over Mozambique have levelled damning accusations at Costa.

This week the Sunday Ex-



● Mr Jorge Costa
... 'Devil Eyes'

press was told by Mr Jose Pinheiro, who was arrested by the Policia de Investigacao Criminal (PIC) in September 1975 that, after being accused of having taking part in the September 7 1974 coup, he was thrown into jail in Maputo.

"Along with many others, I was forced to strip and was burnt with cigarette lighters by policemen," he said. "They were trying to force us to confess to crimes we did not commit — under the orders of Jorge Costa.

"Some people were so badly hurt by this that they had to be admitted to hospital. Others had their wrists bound with a fine cord which was constantly wetted with salt water so that it would shrink.

"This caused so much pain that many prisoners con-

fessed to crimes they had not committed."

Mr Pinheiro said that if the victims had not confessed after that treatment a mixture of salt and lime was rubbed into the rope wound.

Mr Jorge Calrao, who was a paratrooper in the army before the coup, was arrested in 1974 for "crimes against the State". He was released in 1976 without being officially charged.

He claims to have been tortured under the supervision of Jorge Costa.

A friend of Mr Calrao, journalist Ricardo de Saavedra, told the Sunday Express: "He became a quivering heap, unable to do anything for himself.

"It is ridiculous that this man Costa should be allowed to enter South Africa."

Another ex-Mozambiquan said he did not "expect that Jorge Costa will live very long in South Africa. If he has any sense he will get out as soon as possible."

This week the Conservative Party MP for Jeppe, Mr Koos van der Merwe, said he was horrified at the allegations made about Costa.

"It is imperative that they be investigated before Costa is allowed to stay," he said.

Mr Van der Merwe, who is also president of the Directorate for Portuguese Affairs, said the Department of Internal Affairs had promised that Costa's application for political asylum would be considered carefully.