

Mozambique Condemns 4 Dissidents

Manchester Guardian

MAPUTO, Mozambique, Feb. 16 — A Mozambican military tribunal has sentenced four men to death by firing squad. Twenty-seven other persons received prison sentences ranging from eight to 15 years.

All were convicted of being active in the antigovernment ~~"Africa Livre"~~ movement in Milange District, on Mozambique's border with Malawi. This is a mountainous, tea-growing region where low-level antigovernment activity has continued since independence almost six years ago. Shops and villages have been attacked, and some Mozambican officials have been killed.

According to the military tribunal, the leaders of the group were in Malawi and the convicted dissidents regularly went back and forth across the border.

At one time, Malawi actively supported antigovernment groups such as Africa Livre, but Mozambican-Malawian relations have improved recently, and it is not clear whether Malawi is still promoting these groups.

Recruiting for the groups is based on regional and ethnic appeals in opposition to the ruling Marxist Frelimo's nontribal and nonracial policy. For example, one of the men sentenced to death had been organizing "Rumbezia," the Zambezia liberation

movement, within Africa Livre. They also encouraged opposition to Frelimo efforts to organize cooperatives and communal villages.

Africa Livre is linked with the "national resistance movement" that is active in Gaza, Manica, and Sofala provinces and is now supported by Mozambique's neighbor, South Africa.

Three of the men given death sentences were commanders of armed bands in Milange. The fourth was in charge of supplying food to Africa Livre bases there.

One of those imprisoned is a woman and another is a Malawian man. All the others are Mozambican men.