

C11. 10 die daily 13 2 of hunger in 61 Mozambique

MAPUTO. — About 10 people a day are dying of hunger and related diseases in the war-torn northern province of Nampula, the national news agency AIM said yesterday.

The report said most of the famine victims are peasants in the Quixaxe area who have been forced from their homes in raids by the Mozambique National Resistance, a rebel group battling the leftist government since 1977.

Local food supplies have been stolen or destroyed by the rebels, AIM added, citing a report in the daily newspaper Noticias. Nampula Province has fertile agricultural land, but the rebels have wiped out many villages and food aid is not always available outside the larger towns.

Harvest time is not un-

til April and assistance will be required until then to prevent large-scale starvation, the news agency said.

The war has claimed hundreds of thousands of lives and left Mozambique one of the world's poorest countries. Annual per capita income is about 200 dollars a year and almost half of the 15 million people in the south-east African nation require some level of food assistance.

The government of President Joaquim Chissano and the rebels have been holding periodic peace talks in Rome, but fighting has continued despite a partial cease-fire.

No government acknowledges supporting the rebels and they have been accused of widespread civilian atrocities throughout the war. — Sapa-AP.