

kidnap: rebels blamed

Southern Africa Bureau

MBABANE. — Four men arrested in connection with last week's kidnapping of a South African refugee are suspected members of the Mozambique Resistance Movement (MRR), Swaziland police sources said yesterday.

Mr Daya Pillay, a refugee school teacher, was abducted at gunpoint from St Joseph's School, near Manzini, and is believed to have been driven across the border into South Africa.

Swaziland Police arrested four men alleged to have been involved in the abduction shortly afterwards. The men are expected to appear in court in the next few days on charges relating to the kidnapping.

Police suspect that a fifth man drove across the border, taking Mr Pillay with him. He is thought to be a black South African, as a South African reference book was found near the scene of the kidnapping.

The motive of the kidnapping, according to the sources, was to win South African approval for the MRR, in the hope that Pretoria would be persuaded to grant the movement bases for its struggle against the Mozambique government.

The Zimbabwean and Mozambique governments say the MRR was originally backed by Rhodesia's government, but has since been taken over by Pretoria as part of its alleged "destabilisation campaign" against black governments in Southern Africa.

Mr Pillay, originally from Durban, fled South Africa in 1977 and was registered as a refugee with the United Nations High Commission in Swaziland.

His brother, Mr Rabilal Pillay, is reported to have been one of 12 men killed in the South African raid on Maputo.
