

# Key bridge destroyed

**From Joseph Hanlon  
in Maputo**

A road bridge near Beira, Mozambique, was destroyed yesterday morning by an armed band apparently from the South African-backed National Resistance Movement.

The bridge crosses the River Pungue, 30 miles north-west of Beira. Although its destruction cut the road linking Beira to Zimbabwe and Maputo, the oil pipeline which links Beira and

Umtali is attached to the bridge but was not damaged. Nevertheless the destruction of the bridge seems likely to delay the planned reopening of the pipeline in December.

There were unconfirmed reports that the nearby railway bridge was damaged in a second attack at the same time. If true, this would cut rail traffic between Beira port and Zimbabwe. It would not affect traffic to Malawi and the Moatize coal mine, however.