

# UK shipper jailed for role in MNR

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MAPUTO — British shipping agent Dion Hamilto has been sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment by a military tribunal in Beira after being convicted of heading a cell of the Mozambique National Resistance (MNR) movement.

Mr Hamilton was managing director of the largest shipping and forwarding company in Beira, the South African-owned Manica Freight Services.

No details about the charges have been published and a formal statement about the trial has yet been made, but it is known that Hamilton was accused of using Manica Freight Services as a cover for his resistance movement activities, including the importation of arms. Weapons were allegedly found in his house.

It was also alleged that he met last year with Evo Fernandes, the MNR spokesman in Lisbon, and flew his own plane

regularly from Beira to South Africa to meet officials there.

South Africa is allegedly to have provided the bulk of the support for the resistance movement and this claim has been accepted by the United States Government.

Convicted with Hamilton this week was his assistant, a Portuguese man named Benjamin Fox, who was jailed for eight years.

A captured MNR officer is said to have picked Fox out at an identity parade as the man who came regularly to their base near Beira and gave them supplies and instructions. It claimed that this group ambushed a train in August, killing 15 people, and cut off the ears of local teachers.

Diplomatic sources in Maputo have confirmed that the expulsion orders on 20 other foreigners accused of having links with the Hamilton case have been withdrawn.