

Five face firing squad in Beira

**From Joseph Hanlon
in Maputo**

Five people were sentenced to death by firing squad, the military tribunal in Beira, Mozambique, announced yesterday. At the trial last week, 18 others were sentenced to prison, three foreigners were expelled from the country, and 14 people were acquitted.

The five condemned men are Mozambicans who were active in the anti-government Mozambique National Resistance. Two deserted from the Mozambican army to join the MNR. One ex-soldier joined the MNR in 1978 and had been an instructor at an MNR training camp in Rhodesia before Zimbabwe's independence. The other four admitted multiple attacks and killings. Felipe Niquisse, for example, said he killed 30 civi-

lians and 15 soldiers, and was deputy commander of a group of 200 men.

Nine Portuguese and one Briton were among those tried. The sentencing of the Briton, Dion Hamilton, to 20 years had been widely reported, although the formal announcement was only made yesterday. The military tribunal said he committed "acts equivalent to terrorism."

Hamilton was director of the South African owned Manica Freight Services in Beira. The tribunal said that several days before the December 9 sabotage raid on the fuel storage depot in Beira, Hamilton ordered his deputy, Benjamin Fox, to organise extra fuel stocks because a shortage was imminent. Fox was sentenced to eight years, another Manica

official to four years. Two Manica staff were expelled. All four are Portuguese.

In addition, arms were found in Hamilton's house, including grenades and a pistol with a silencer. Hamilton's Portuguese wife, who admitted she took arms from the house and gave them to the Portuguese consul, was also expelled.

But four Portuguese were acquitted. One is a fishing boat captain accused by his crew of pro-MNR agitation. The tribunal said the allegations were untrue, and ordered legal proceedings against those who had made the false accusations.

Nine Mozambicans and one Zimbabwean were acquitted of a series of MNR-related offences.

Six Mozambicans were sentenced to terms of eight to 12

years in prison for voluntarily and regularly supplying food to the MNR. Their conviction shows that at least some peasants do support the MNR.

Each MNR supporter was given 15 houses from which to collect food weekly. Normally, supplies were left at an agreed point where they were collected by the MNR. These supporters were not allowed into MNR bases.

Nine others were convicted of having undergone MNR training and participating in actions. One of those, Francisco Simbe, said that he was in an MNR base for six months last year. During that time there were white instructors in the base, Simbe said, and helicopters arrived during the night with instructors, arms, and food.