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Mozambican Rebel's Death Probed

PRETORIA (UPI) — Police confirmed Thursday they were investigating the fatal shooting Sunday near Pretoria of Orlando Cristina, the leader of the Mozambique Resistance Movement.

Mr. Cristina, 55, was secretary-general of the movement, which seeks the overthrow of the Marxist government of President Samora Machel. Sources in the movement have said that Mr. Cristina was the "key link" between the rebels and their alleged South African backers and that his death is a severe loss.

The group has carried out guerrilla attacks throughout northern and central Mozambique for the past seven years and claimed responsibility late last year for explosions at a Beira oil refinery and on the Mozambique-Zimbabwe oil pipeline. South Africa has denied aiding the group.