

# MOZAMBIQUE

## THE WAR



## THE WAR THE WORLD IGNORES: SOUTH AFRICA & MOZAMBIQUE



**M**OZAMBIQUE IS FIGHTING FOR ITS LIFE. THIS YOUNG NATION, struggling with massive famine and economic collapse, has been forced into a war with its powerful neighbour, South Africa. The main agent of this war is the Mozambique National Resistance (MNR, also known as Renamo) — a terrorist force armed, trained and supported by South Africa.

This is not a civil war. The MNR is not trying to win the hearts and minds of the people or take over the reins of government. It is, instead, waging war on the people. Its purpose is to destroy the independence of Mozambique. Its tactics are butchery and massacre, and its effect is misery. A 1988 U.S. State Department report called MNR attacks in Mozambique **“one of the most brutal holocausts against ordinary human beings since World War II.”**

The statistics are plain and harsh:

- The MNR has killed over 100,000 in village massacres and attacks.
- The MNR has destroyed 490 clinics, hospitals and maternity centres, leading to the death of over 250,000 infants. Mozambique now has the highest mortality rate in the world for children under 5 years old.
- The MNR has destroyed 1,800 schools.
- 2,000,000 Mozambicans have fled their homes; 750,000 are in refugee camps in Zimbabwe, Malawi and Tanzania.
- 6,000,000 people — nearly half the population — are threatened by famine caused by the war.
- The cost of the war has been estimated at more than \$8 billion to date.



Peasant women liberated from MNR captivity are escorted home by Frelimo soldiers.



## WHY IS MOZAMBIQUE A TARGET FOR SOUTH AFRICAN AGGRESSION?

- 1 Mozambique's independence struggle and non-racial society are an inspiration to black South Africans, and others in the region.
- 2 Mozambique is firmly against apartheid and supports the African National Congress (ANC) — the main force against apartheid in South Africa.
- 3 As a member of the Southern Africa Development Coordination Conference (SADCC) — an economic union of the nine states bordering South Africa — Mozambique is playing a major role in breaking South Africa's hold on the region.

The simple answer is that without apartheid in South Africa there would be no war in Mozambique.



Sergio Santimano / AIM



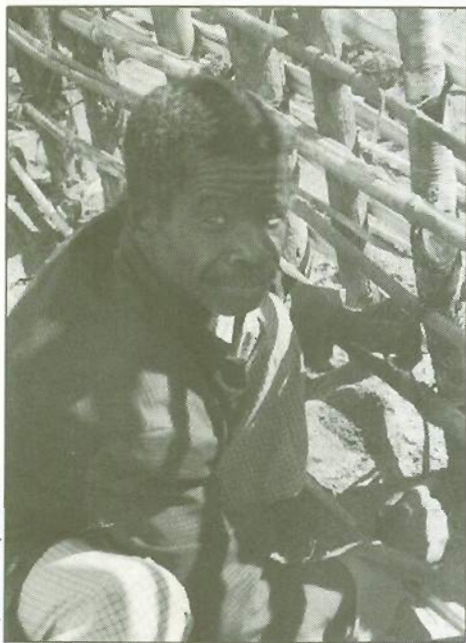
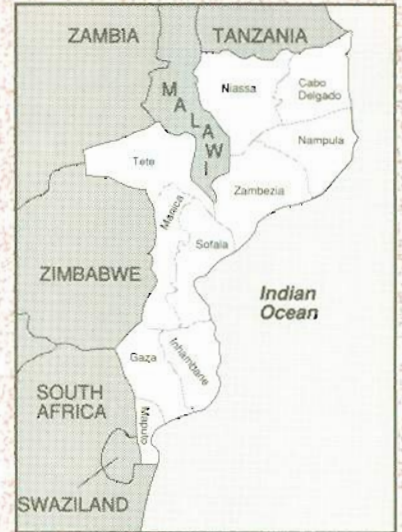
## WAGING WAR BY PROXY: South Africa and the MNR

**S**OUTH AFRICA'S MILITARY FORCES HAVE DIRECTLY ATTACKED MOZAMBIQUE several times. South Africa has also applied economic sanctions against the country. But the MNR continues to be the weapon South Africa uses most often against Mozambique.

The MNR was created in 1975 by the Rhodesian intelligence service to obstruct Mozambican support for the liberation movements fighting for independence inside Rhodesia. When Rhodesia became Zimbabwe in 1980, the Rhodesians handed the MNR over to the South African Defense Force.

The leaders of the MNR — a collection of disaffected colonialists, career racists, soldiers of fortune and former Mozambique soldiers in disgrace — are now on the payroll of the Special Forces Command of the South African Defense Force. South Africa supplies weapons and logistical support for the MNR to continue its holocaust.

The MNR's "foot soldiers" are mainly young, poor Mozambican men who have been kidnapped during massacres and raids and forced to carry out acts of terror against their compatriots. Now they feel they can never go home.



Alpha Cooperative

Building a school in a Nampula refugee settlement



## LISTEN, CANADA

**C**ANADIANS TODAY ARE beginning to understand exactly what the outrage of apartheid means: a repulsive system of racial supremacy inside South Africa. But apartheid is also a carefully calculated strategy to maintain South Africa's stranglehold on racial and economic power throughout southern Africa. The tragedy of South Africa's war in Mozambique must become better known — and it must be stopped.

This is from the resource kit **Mozambique: Apartheid's Second Front** available from Cooperation Canada Mozambique (COCAMO), c/o CCIC, 1 Nicholas St., Ottawa, Ontario K1N 7B7. COCAMO members include Anglican Church of Canada, Canadian Lutheran World Relief, CODE, CARE Canada, CIDMAA, CUSO, Inter Pares, OCCDP/CCODP, OXFAM Canada, OXFAM Québec, Presbyterian Church in Canada, Save the Children Fund of B.C., SUCO, TCLSAC, United Church of Canada, USC Canada, World Relief Canada, World Vision Canada, WUSC