

Maputo victim of SA action not civil war

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HERALD

GENEVA. MOZAMBICAN Prime Minister Mario Machungo has refuted suggestions that the conflict in Mozambique can be described as a civil war.

Speaking in an interview in Geneva Cde Machungo said: "We do not have a civil war in Mozambique. What we have is a situation of destabilisation and aggression waged by the South African racist regime."

The prime minister also spoke of Mozambique's military co-operation with Zimbabwe and Tanzania, the purpose of which, he said, was to defend Mozambican sovereignty and to ensure peace and stability in the region.

Cde Machungo pointed out that South Africa's aggression against Mozambique also took economic forms. South Africa, he said, "has imposed economic sanctions against Mozambique in

the fields of labour and rail transport".

South African sanctions began shortly after Mozambique's independence in 1975, he continued. At that time there were about 120 000 Mozambican migrant workers on the South African gold and coal mines. That number had been cut back by Pretoria to about 60 000, and was set to be halved again, to 30 000.

Cde Machungo also pointed to the sharp decline in South African use of the port of Maputo.

Cde Machungo headed the Mozambican delegation to Tuesday's donors conference in Geneva, called by United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez De Cuellar, to mobilise emergency assistance for Mozambique. Aid totalling US\$207 million was pledged at the conference. -- Ziana-Aim-Pana.