

MNR ^H

bandits

abduct ¹⁶/₅

seven ⁸⁷

whites

SEVEN whites, including an 18-month-old baby, were abducted by the South African-backed MNR bandits near the Mozambican central town of Gondola on Wednesday night.

The seven, five Zimbabweans, one Australian and one American, were working for three different volunteer organisations operating in Mozambique — Youth with a Mission, Mission to Mozambique and Shiloh Shalom.

The abducted are Ms Kindra Bryan (28), Ms Joan Goodman (about 50), Mr Roy Perkins (36), his wife Patricia (33), Mr Philip Cooper (37), his wife Vicky (age unknown) and their 18-month-old daughter, Abigail. Ms Bryan is an American and Mr Perkins is an Australian.

The national director of YWAM, Mr Mike Oman, said yesterday that the seven were in a farm house when a group of MNR bandits arrived and surrounded the house. The farm has a clinic and is used for distributing food and clothing to the needy.

The bandits then broke into the house but did not fire any shots. "They then ransacked the house and took everything they could carry, including food, medicine and cameras."

Before taking the seven away, the bandits blew up a four-tonne truck and Peugeot station wagon parked outside the house.

Mr Oman said the American embassy and the Australian high commission had been informed of the abductions and a letter had been written to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cde Witness Mangwende.

He said Ms Bryan was a YWAM volunteer nurse who had gone to the farm last Sunday to help at the clinic while Mr and Mrs Perkins worked for Mission to Mozambique and managed the farm. The others worked for Shiloh Shalom, a Zimbabwean-based Christian organisation. — Ziana.