

# Thousands seek refuge from MNR at mission

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**Herald Reporter**  
STAFF of Mary Mount Mission deep in the Zambezi Valley near the Mozambican border have been working round the clock over the last few days feeding and looking after about 2 000 local people now staying at the mission after the bandit attack last Saturday.

After MNR bandits murdered 11 Zimbabweans in Rushinga district many people in nearby villages moved down to Rushinga centre over the weekend, worried about their security.

The army helped reassure them and provided transport to get them back to the mission. Early this week they poured into the mission by the hundred.

The Government provided some food but the mission staff, including the hospital staff, had to cook, provide blankets and set up a temporary camp with water and sanitation overnight.

Officials of the Catholic Chinhoyi Diocese said yesterday that the mission was safe, with a company of infantry providing protection, and numbers were starting to decrease as people went to look at their homes.

Generally heads of families are going back to their homes, leaving women and children at the mission, while they assess the extra protection being

offered by the security forces. Diocese officials expect more people to move out after the weekend.

The bandit gang attacked a business centre near Marymount, intending to loot it. Local people reacted but as the gang retreated four huts were burned down and 11 people from the two families murdered. One member of the gang has already been captured by Zimbabwean forces.

The 11 victims who were murdered at the weekend were buried yesterday at Mary Mount Mission with assistance from the Government.

The victims, six of whom were children aged between two and 16 years, belonged to the Tembo, Chikwere and Katurusa families of Kadora Village in the Rushinga district of north-eastern Zimbabwe.

Speaking during the burial ceremony, attended by about 8 000 people, the local Member of Parliament, Cde Paddington Zvorwadza, said the deaths of these innocent people would be avenged.

Cde Zvorwadza said Zimbabweans would not be intimidated by cowardly attacks from MNR bandits whose war had no sense of direction.

The Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace in Zimbabwe has condemned the murder of civilians in the Rushinga district by the MNR.