

# 100 troops die in attack — MNR claim

LISBON. — Rightist Mozambican rebels yesterday said they drove off a big attack on their bush headquarters, killing almost 100 government and Zimbabwean assault troops.

The Mozambican National Resistance (MNR) said in a statement distributed in Lisbon that its main base near Gorongosa in the central province of Manica was attacked eight days ago.

"The attack was quickly and energetically repulsed by our rebels, leaving 53 Mozambican and 41 Zimbabwean soldiers dead," the statement said. No rebel casualties were given.

The MNR, which has fought Mozambique's Marxist government for almost a decade, also said it killed 76 government and 29 Tanzanian troops in separate attacks over the past two weeks.

The Tanzanians were killed when the rebels overran the northern town of Iapala in Nampula province and 56 government soldiers died in an attack on Mecula in neighbouring Niassa province, according to the statement. — Sapa-Reuter.