

Mozambique's contras

The claim in your editorial Dealing With Mozambique's Contras (April 22) that Renamo "has massacred thousands of innocent civilians" is based on Frelimo (Mozambique Liberation Front) propaganda.

If Renamo were that unpopular, how could such a movement have been able to liberate about 85 per cent of Mozambican territory and bring to its knees a regime enjoying exclusive international support despite the fact that it has killed hundreds of thousands of its own nationals, 100,000 of whom have perished in its concentration camps?

Renamo is currently dependent solely on the support of the Mozambican people.

Your claim that South Africa still finances Renamo is unfounded. Recent foreign visitors to Renamo-held zones of Mozambique have failed to find evidence to support that claim and state that Renamo is basically a rag-tag army fighting with arms seized from the government army and the foreign mercenaries from Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Malawi and the Soviet bloc. South Africa has been supporting Maputo economically and even militarily since 1984.

The civil conflict will not be ended by a sham amnesty from dictator Joaquim Chissano, nor increased foreign support for the totalitarian Frelimo rule.

The State Department's report you cited is a ploy by the supporters of the Marxist Frelimo regime aimed at securing U.S. support for Maputo.

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