

Minister Calls for Military Pressure on MNR

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[Text] The Mozambican minister of interior, Manuel Antonio, has called for increased military activity against camps of South Africa's MNR bandits. The minister said such activity should be undertaken to pressure the terrorists into accepting the amnesty offered by the Mozambican authorities in December.

Mr Antonio's call was made during discussions with the provincial amnesty commissions in Manica and Tete Provinces. He said without strong military action there will be no mass surrender by the bandits.

Mr Antonio called on the provincial commissions to ensure that detailed information on the amnesty reached the bandits through the distribution of leaflets and the use of radio broadcasts in local languages. The amnesty commissions in both provinces complained to the minister of shortage of propaganda material.

A total of 396 MNR bandits have surrendered so far in Manica and Tete Provinces since the amnesty law was passed. Most of them have been reunited with their families and given land to work.

Mr Antonio spoke to those bandits awaiting transport to their homes and asked them how the terrorists were reacting to the amnesty law. They told him that the bandit chiefs were refusing to allow the MNR rank and file to listen to Radio Mozambique broadcasts and were carrying out an intensive campaign of counterpropaganda against the amnesty. Despite this, they added, many bandits wanted to abandon the MNR because they were tired of the war.