

SA JOURNALISTS AT MNR BASE

The official Mozambique news agency, AIM, said that SA had secretly flown foreign journalists to rebel-held areas of Mozambique in violation of a security pact between the two countries. AIM said it learned of the recent trip from a report by the *New York Times* correspondent John Battersby, one of four reporters who flew into Mozambique from SA in a chartered plane. It said Battersby's report was datelined Gorongosa and was based on an interview with rebel leader Afonso Dhlakama. The trip was organised in Washington by an ultra-right organisation called Freedom Inc, AIM said. It said the plane took off from Johannesburg and landed at a private MNR airstrip in central Mozambique, in violation of the Nkomati Accord. AIM said the visit was an attempt by Pretoria to polish the image of the MNR, tarnished by a US State Department report in April accusing the MNR of mass murder of civilians.

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