

Sofala Bandit Head Surrenders . *M10 News Review (135) 18/8/88*

A provincial head of military intelligence for South Africa's MNR bandits has surrendered to the Mozambican authorities, in order to take advantage of the amnesty offered by the People's Assembly, the Mozambican parliament. Agnaldo Marcos, who was head of MNR intelligence in the central province of Sofala, told the daily paper 'Noticias', in an interview published on 12 August, that he had been in the MNR since 1984.

He had been based at Cavalo, in the district of Gorongosa, and among the tasks of his group was the destruction of the railway from Beira to Malawi. He was also instructed "not to permit any movement or circulation of cars in the area to supply the local people". He admitted that he had taken part in the burning down of communal villages and in the killing of defenceless peasants "even those who begged us to spare them, and said that they really supported the bandits". Marcos said he did not know exactly how many people he had killed, but he thought it was more than 60.

Asked why he had surrendered, Marcos told of how after a serious leg wound, "I realised I had almost died in the bush, and for nothing. I was becoming aware that I was destroying my country and killed defenceless, blameless people. I saw that the best, the only way, to ask forgiveness from the Mozambican people and from the government was to surrender." Marcos plans to rejoin his two wives in Gorongosa, and work as a peasant farmer.

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