

E81188e    attack/railway

maputo, 11 nov (aim) - bandits of the south african backed mnr killed at least six people on thursday night when they attacked the railway station at pessene, 50 kilometres north of maputo, railway sources told aim today.

in addition to the six murders, the bandits kidnapped an unknown number of civilians, including workers at the station. they damaged the railway line, burnt down several nearby houses, destroyed railway documents, and stole money from the station's safe. the money came from ticket sales,

the attack on pessene is the third bandit raid against the maputo-south africa railway in the space of less than a fortnight.

on 2 november a passenger train hit a mine between pessene and moamba, and bandits hidden nearby then opened fire. nine people died in this ambush and over 30 others were injured.

on 3 november, a bridge at sikhonjuene, 62 kilometres northwest of maputo, was sabotaged, thus cutting rail traffic between maputo port and south africa.

railway sources added that on 4 november there was also sabotage on the railway linking maputo to swaziland. A train hit a mine at estevel, 30 kilometres southwest of maputo, and several wagons were derailed.

on both lines railway workers are repairing the damage in order to re-open them to traffic.

the repeated acts of sabotage against the railways and against the transmission lines carrying electricity to maputo confirm reports from the areas bordering south africa which speak of movements of large groups of mnr bandits.

(aim)

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