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MOZAMBIQUE REBELS

12. 11. 88

REBELS REPORT KILLING 15 SOLDIERS IN ATTACKS AROUND CAPITAL LISBON PORTUGAL (AP) MOZAMBIQUE REBELS SAID SATURDAY THEY KILLED 15 GOVERNMENT TROOPS AND CAPTURED ARMS IN ATTACKS THE PREVIOUS WEEK IN THREE SUBURBS OF THE CAPITAL MAPUTO

IN A STATEMENT DISTRIBUTED IN LISBON THE MOZAMBIQUE NATIONAL RESISTANCE CLAIMED ROAD COMMUNICATIONS AND ELECTRICAL POWER SUPPLIES TO MAPUTO HAD BEEN CUT BY REBEL ACTIONS THERE WAS NO INDEPENDENT CONFIRMATION OF THE CLAIMS

THE REBELS ALSO ACCUSED TROOPS FROM NEIGHBORING ZAMBIA OF CROSSING INTO MOZAMBIQUE WEDNESDAY AND KILLING 47 CIVILIANS ALLEGED TO SUPPORT THE REBELS

THE ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT SAID WEDNESDAY ITS FORCES HAD ENTERED MOZAMBIQUE AND KILLED 33 MOZAMBIQUE REBELS IN A HOT PURSUIT OPERATION AFTER THE GUERRILLAS MOUNTED CROSS BORDER RAIDS ON ZAMBIAN VILLAGES

MEANWHILE THE PORTUGUESE NEWS AGENCY LUSA QUOTED AN UNIDENTIFIED MOZAMBIQUE MILITARY OFFICIAL AS SAYING THE REBELS KILLED 14 CIVILIANS INCLUDING TWO CHILDREN IN TWO ATTACKS WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY IN SOUTHERN INHAMPANE PROVINCE

SOME OF THE CIVILIANS REPORTEDLY WERE KILLED FOR REFUSING TO ACCOMPANY THE REBELS

THE OFFICIAL TOLD LUSA A GROUP OF ABOUT 200 REBELS WERE INVOLVED IN THE RAIDS ADDING THAT THE GUERRILLAS ALSO KNOWN BY THE PORTUGUESE ACRONYM RENAMO HAD INTENSIFIED ATTACKS IN THE SOUTHEAST OF INHAMPANE PROVINCE OVER THE PAST FEW DAYS DESTROYING FARM COOPERATIVES

ON FRIDAY THE MOZAMBIQUE NATIONAL NEWSAGENCY AIM SAID THE REBELS ALSO KILLED SIX CIVILIANS IN A RAID ON A RAILROAD STATION IN PESSANE 80 KILOMETERS (50 MILES) NORTH OF MAPUTO AIM SAID THE REBELS TOOK AN UNKNOWN NUMBER OF HOSTAGES IN THE ATTACK THE FOURTH THIS MONTH AGAINST RAIL FACILITIES IN SOUTHERN MOZAMBIQUE

THE REBELS HAVE BEEN FIGHTING TO OUST MOZAMBIQUE'S MARXIST ORIENTATED FRELIMO GOVERNMENT SINCE SHORTLY AFTER THE SOUTHEAST AFRICAN COUNTRY GAINED INDEPENDENCE FROM PORTUGAL IN 1975

REBEL HIT AND RUN ATTACKS ON MILITARY AND CIVILIAN TARGETS HAVE SEVERELY DAMAGED THE MOZAMBIQUE ECONOMY

AN ESTIMATED 6 MILLION OF THE COUNTRY'S 14.5 MILLION PEOPLE ARE IN NEED OF FOOD-AID ACCORDING TO RELIEF AGENCIES

NO GOVERNMENT ACKNOWLEDGES SUPPORTING THE REBELS WHO HAVE BEEN ACCUSED OF WIDESPREAD CIVILIAN ATROCITIES THE REBELS DENY THE CHARGES

SOUTH AFRICA DENIES MOZAMBIQUE CHARGES IT SUPPORTS THE REBELS AND RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES HAVE IMPROVED RECENTLY

SOUTH AFRICAN PRESIDENT PIETER W. ROTH PAID AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO MOZAMBIQUE IN SEPTEMBER WHEN HE GAVE MOZAMBIQUE PRESIDENT JOAQUIM CHISSANO NEW ASSURANCES THAT SOUTH AFRICA HAD CEASED ALL AID TO THE REBELS UNDER THE TERMS OF A 1984 MUTUAL NON AGGRESSION PACT BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES

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