

Renamo Actions, Western Support Viewed
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[L. Kuznetsov article: "Bloody Saga of Terror"]

[Excerpts] The Africans particularly respect and love teachers. They are compared to a sacred tree which brings people happiness. But there are places in Africa where teachers are the object of particular hatred—and cruelty. These are the regions where bands of the so-called "Mozambique National Resistance [MNR]" operate. According to information from U.S. sources, since 1983 terrorists from the MNR have brutally killed 193 school teachers after torturing them and have taken 185 as hostages.

But teachers were not the only victims of the MNR.
[passage omitted]

As a result of the MNR bandits' actions, about 3.5 million Mozambicans have lost their homes and become wanderers—hungry, destitute, homeless. About a million people are seeking asylum abroad. Besides this, colossal damage has been inflicted on the Mozambican economy. In Tete Province alone out of 250,000 acres of the most fertile land, about which people say "stick a fork in the ground in the spring and by the fall a fork tree will grow," only 5,000 acres are being cultivated. The MNR is striving precisely for economic disorganization and political destabilization. But why? In whose interests?

Imperialist Western circles want to discredit healthy progressive forces in Africa, to sow distrust in political parties' programs, and to put countries which have chosen the path of independent development under the diktat of monopolies again. The MNR, created by the special services of the West and by South Africa's racist regime in 1970 to strike at national liberation movements and left-wing forces, also serves this "mission." The PROGRESSIVE journal writes that at first the white racists of Rhodesia, as it was then called, headed the terrorists. Now they are commanded from South Africa. In recent years, with generous military, material, and moral support from Pretoria and extreme right-wing U.S. forces, the MNR has gathered strength. Justifying support for the terrorists, Jesse Helms, Republican U.S. senator from North Carolina, put forward the main argument at the hearings in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee: "The MNR is fighting communism."

The actions of the "Mozambique National Resistance" are also alarming the world community because they testify to a very dangerous and alarming tendency: Today the extreme right is increasingly frequently resorting to a crude, hired force and to the services of punitive expeditions "from among the local population." [passage omitted]