

Rebels kill 25 villagers

MAPUTO - Rightwing rebels in Mozambique hacked and bludgeoned 25 people to death after kidnapping them from villages, Radio Mozambique reported yesterday.

Eleven people were also wounded in the incident at Chonguene, 150km north of Maputo, the radio said.

It said rebels of the Mozambique National Resistance (Renamo) kidnapped the victims from surrounding villages at the weekend, then marched them to the country's main north-south highway to be "executed".

The radio quoted survi-

vors as saying Renamo members "slaughtered their victims with axes, machetes, clubs and hammers".

The Mozambique news agency AIM said: "The killings took place very near a roadblock supposedly manned by the army. But there was no intervention by the army."

There have been increasing complaints from people in southern and central Mozambique in recent months that the army has not protected them from Renamo attacks. - *Sapa-Reuter.*