

50 massacred in M'bique - report

MAPUTO — Rebels in Mozambique have begun the year in bloody carnage, massacring at least 50 villagers in the south of the country.

According to daily newspaper Noticias, the rebels attacked Macia village, 150km north-east of the capital, in southern Gaza Province last Tuesday, pouring machine-gun fire into the town for four hours.

Witnesses said Macia was now deserted at night and residents had fled to the capital or neighbouring towns of Xinavane and Xai-Xai.

Government administrator for Macia Antonio Djedje said he feared the death toll could rise due to lack of blood and medicines at Xinavane Hospital, where 25 wounded victims of the rebel attack have been sent.

Of Mozambique's 11 provinces, Gaza was last year among the worst affected by rebel attack in the anti-government guerilla war Renamo has waged for almost 16 years.

The rebels murdered 60 people of Chiguclane village last October and in December killed 25 in Chonguene area of Gaza.

Between May and November 1991 rebels killed 370 civilians in Gaza. — UPI