

Report accuses Renamo of killing civilians

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MADRID — Renamo is being held responsible for the "vast majority" of human rights abuses in Mozambique.

US State Department report on human rights in Mozambique blames the rebel movement for the "vast majority" of civilian deaths. It also accuses Renamo of "regularly holding civilians against their will".

Mozambique's official news agency, Aim, says the report claims Renamo

beat and mutilated people and forced family members to witness or participate in tortures.

"The rebel group continued to execute or kidnap non-combatants after attacks on villages, often hacking or burning people to death, and later displaying body parts, apparently to intimidate would-be resisters," the report says.

The report also criticises abuses by government soldiers and police.

It names incidents in which troops beat civilians or extorted money from

them. It condemns the army's forced recruitment campaign of 1991, and the compulsory movement of civilians to "government-protected" villages.

However, Aim says, the report notes that the Mozambican press reported "in full and without any penalty, strong criticism of Frelimo and the government by the new political parties".

The report states that "instances of torture by security police have reportedly declined sharply since 1988", but criticises prison conditions.