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MNR murderers

THE reported massacre of nearly 400 civilians in the Mozambican town of Homoine should be conclusive evidence, to those who still need any, that the MNR bandits are nothing but terrorists, with no political direction save the ability to carry out mass murders for purposes of intimidation and destabilisation.

The act is so monumental in its horror that even the so-called leadership of the MNR bandits is at pains to disown and disclaim responsibility for a deed involving the flow of blood of unarmed men, women and children — innocent blood which one hopes in the long run and final analysis should choke to death the perpetrators of these inhuman crimes along with their supporters and sympathisers.

The MNR bandits have no support from the people of Mozambique and, as a result of the lack of that vital element, only murder and terror can be their hallmark and stock in trade.

It is estimated that during the last seven years, MNR bandit activities of terror and murder have resulted in the death of 500 000 people. Throughout the war of liberation carried out by Frelimo against the Portuguese fascists over a period of 10 years, fewer people than that died.

This was because it was a just war of liberation which aimed at preserving people and not decimating them on behalf of callous forces with the sinister motive of preserving modern slavery in the form of the apartheid regime.

According to Unicef, by 1981 Mozambique had become the world's primary health care model. Yet between then and now as many as 250 000 children under five have died from preventable diseases, thanks to the disruption of medical services by the MNR bandits.

What is the purpose behind all this apparently senseless killing and bloodletting? It is designed to intimidate and to create a sense of despair and helplessness on the part of the people. The motive is to demoralise them, and make it appear as if the bandits are invincible.

If these cowardly and despicable deeds of terror were taking place anywhere else, there would be a hue and cry from predictable quarters in the Western hemisphere.

But there is a deafening silence. Is it because Mozambique is supposed to be Marxist, which the West considers worse than slavery or fascism, that there is this silence in the face of so much slaughter?

One thing is certain, however, and it is that the Frontline States, Africa, and indeed the world at large, must never allow the MNR bandits to crown their crimes with victory either of a political or military nature in Mozambique. If they can kill so many people when they are fugitives from the law, how many will they kill if should ever come to power?

Africa must organise and mobilise to defeat this imperialist-backed onslaught, for it is aimed at nothing less than the independence of the continent by the very forces that yesterday thrived on African slavery, the very same forces that were defeated during the anti-colonial struggles.