

MOZAMBIQUE'S PEACE INITIATIVES TO END TERRORISM

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Speaking at a press conference at the European Commission headquarters in Brussels, on 13 November, Prime Minister Mario Machungo declared that "Mozambique is suffering the most tragic effects of the policy of destabilisation carried out by South Africa". He explained that the peace initiatives of the Mozambican government are aimed at persuading the MNR bandits to stop practising "massacres and terrorism". He stressed that any support from the international community to this end would be welcome.

The Mozambican Prime Minister warned that through its violence, the MNR "is destroying our social fabric and all prospects for building a healthy and prosperous nation". If the bandits considered themselves Mozambicans, then they should "rejoin society", he said, in order to contribute to national reconstruction and the process of consolidating democracy that was under way in the country. This would not be possible through pressure or armed violence.

Speaking about the MNR to Swedish parliamentarians in Stockholm, on 10 November, Mr Machungo said that, if the MNR had demands to make, they should submit their proposals for popular discussion rather than try to impose them by force of arms. He said that any alteration in Mozambique's established institutional framework would only be made "on the basis of the will of the people, and not of those who wield guns". By way of example, the Mozambican Prime Minister pointed to the forthcoming nation-wide debate on amending the constitution. If the people were to vote in favour of a multi-party system, he said, their desire would be respected.

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