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VIPs

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ask FW to help end war

By DRIES van HEERDEN

EIGHTY Mozambican intellectuals have written an open letter to President F W de Klerk urging him to use his power "to eliminate the forces of chaos" in southern Africa.

Referring to the military activities of the Mozambican resistance movement, Renamo, the letter says "more than a million Mozambicans have either been murdered or died as victims of violence and widespread hunger caused by the aggression".

It was signed by some of Mozambique's most influential academics, writers, artists and sportsmen.

Journalist Carlos Cardoza, who organised the letter, said yesterday it was addressed to Mr De Klerk because they believed he had the power and influence to put an end to the hostilities threatening to engulf the entire region.

Genocide

The letter does not accuse the SA government of aiding Renamo but states that the movement "continues to receive support from South African territory".

Referring to the civil war in Mozambique as "one of the most terrible genocides in the history of Africa", it says the war is "directed chiefly against civilians, wiping out lives and destroying economic infrastructures".

It urges Mr De Klerk to "use the power conferred on him" to "confront the forces in South Africa that are involved in the destruction of our common future".

Referring to Mr De Klerk's recent reform moves, the letter says: "We have followed with interest your declared intentions to contribute to the building of a new South Africa."

"We view as positive the changes that are happening in your country and we believe that they are the beginning of an irreversible process of democratisation in South Africa. We urge you to proceed on this path of transformation."