

I'll do everything to stop Moz war, vows Mandela

MAPUTO. — ANC leader Mr Nelson Mandela yesterday told thousands of Mozambicans at a rally on a public holiday declared in his honour, that he would do everything possible to support the country's bid to end the bloody 15-year civil war.

Mr Mandela, due back in South Africa tomorrow, said the ANC had a duty "to ensure that no one in our country does anything to subvert the peace process in which you are engaged".

The ANC would try to guarantee that "instruments of death" were not sent from South Africa into Mozambique "to nourish those who thrive on the precious blood of this country".

"Peace in Mozambique is a matter of deep concern to our movement and our people," Mr Mandela said of the conflict which has claimed up to 500 000 lives. "Women and children have perished ... the killing and destruction must come to an end."

"We must move quickly to end all the conflicts in our region and reach just and lasting solutions so that we can declare war on hunger and poverty."

Mr Mandela praised President Joaquim Chissano's efforts to negotiate

an end to the war between Mozambique and the rightist rebels, long backed by Pretoria as a counter to Mozambique's support for the ANC.

Mozambique's government and the rebels held their first direct peace talks in Rome last week, and have pledged to meet again.

Mr Mandela said the sun was setting on apartheid and victory for South Africa's disenfranchised black majority was in sight.

"We can see the day dawn when black people will no longer be condemned to be servants to others, simply because they have white skins."

"We know that the moment is not far off when black people and white people in South Africa will live together as people, as brothers and sisters."

President Chissano introduced Mr. Mandela and his wife Winnie to the crowd, calling Mr Mandela "a living hero".

● Police said yesterday that they would make "appropriate security arrangements" for Mr Mandela's return.

Security arrangements are being made against the background of an apparent right-wing terror blitz in the Johannesburg area. — Sapa-Reuter