Beira paper reveals MNR violations of partial ceasefire

H. 11/191 MAPUTO.

MNR bandits have violated the agreement they signed with the Mozambican government in Rome on December 1 1990 by attacking the Beira Corridor at least 11 times.

The Beira daily paper, Diario de Mocambique, sent journalists along the corridor to investigate, and has now published a list of 11 bandit violations that took place between December 3 1990 and January 5 1991.

Under the terms of the Rome agreement, all Zimbabwean forces in Mozambique are restricted to the Beira and Limpopo corridors. In return, the bandits undertook not to launch any offensive. However, on December 3 they sabotaged the Beira-Zimbabwe railway at Zimpinga in Manica province.

Four days later, at the Inchope Crossroads, where the road from Beira to Maputo diverges from the road to Zimbabwe, they killed three people, burnt down 30 houses, and destroyed a car, a truck and a tractor.

On December 10, the bandits attacked a village on the outskirts of Gondola, one of the main towns along the railway, and looted the property of seven families.

Six days later, the bandits attacked the village of Chigodole, also in the Manica stretch of the corridor,

and kidnapped seven villagers.

On January 2, bandits attacked a village belonging to the religious group Rosemary Koro, in the Maforga region. One of the major pumping stations on the Beira-Zimbabwe pipeline is at Maforga.

The same day, they kidnapped eight people at Selva, on the road near the Zimbabwean border. Two were killed, two later escaped, and four are still in bandit captivity.

Also on January 2, five bandits attacked the small town of Tica on the railway in Sofala province. They kidnapped three people, two of whom were later killed.

According to the survivor, named as Cde Manuel Francisco, the same group, in the early morning of the following day, sabotaged the railway at Muda. The damage was not serious and it took railway workers four hours to repair.

The bandits sabotaged the railway again on lanuary 3 at Mezimbite, near the Mafambisse sugar plantation, about 40 km west of Beira. This time it only took Mozambique Railways 45 minutes to reopen the line to traffic.

On the same day, the bandits attacked the Cheringoma centre for displaced people in Dondo district, and killed six people. — Ziana-Pana-AIM.