

Rebels shoot, bayonet 23

Star Africa Service

MAPUTO — Most of the 23 civilians killed by Renamo near Inhambane last Saturday night were bayoneted after the rebels had cold-bloodedly selected who was to live and who was to die, survivors say.

According to accounts now coming in of the massacre, the rebel attack was aimed at a Catholic Church centre at Guiua, 12 km outside Inhambane.

Lay catechists are

trained at the church centre.

The raiders went to the houses of the catechists and ordered them and their families out, it is claimed.

Flee

Two catechists reportedly tried to flee and were immediately shot dead.

The raiders then interrogated the catechists about government military positions in the area.

One of the catechists

escaped and alerted nearby government troops in Inhambane.

However, instead of sending men to the rescue, the soldiers fired two rocket-propelled grenades in the direction of Guiua.

The raiders, thinking that the soldiers were attacking, then retreated with their captives.

When they realised they were not being attacked, they selected 21 of the prisoners, five of them children, and bayoneted them to death.