

# De-stabilising Mozambique

We are now witnessing an even more macabre phase in South Africa's foreign policy to Mozambique. A foreign policy which both by economic and military means, attempts to transform its independent neighbour into a virtual Bantustan.

During South Africa's unsuccessful campaign to "starve out" the civilian population of the fertile province of Zambesia, it tried to portray its surrogate force, the so-called Mozambique National Resistance (MNR) as a legitimate opposition. Many foreign journalists were ferried into Mozambique on PR exercises and spread the notions of "civil-war," "liberated zones" and contented villagers returning to a system under the tutelage of former Portuguese colonial-appointed chiefs. The attempt failed once Malawi realised its real interests were not being served by collusion with South Africa and newspaper editors and readers alike understood that "deep inside Mozambique" meant just over the Malawi border.

Having lost the initiative in the north, South Africa switched fronts by infiltrating hundreds of "trained" MNR men across the Transvaal-Mozambique border. Many of these young men have been press-ganged and brutalised into killing, massacring, raping,

and mutilating. New recruits captured in raids are initiated by being forced to carry out barbaric crimes or face similar consequences themselves. Many of the captured MNR men are not only traumatised by their experiences but some also show signs of severe drug addiction.

It was these young men who carried out the latest massacres in Homoine and Majacaze. In some quarters it has been explained away as one more example of "the inability of Africans to agree amongst themselves," but the real culprits are the South African military leaders and politicians.

The civilian population who lost their lives in Homoine, Majacaze and many other towns and villages too numerous to mention are caught up in the same conflict that has caused so many deaths and suffering.

South Africa does not exist alone; it is supported by massive economic interests stemming from the West. How many more Homoines and Majacazes will there be before investments in such a barbaric system become too much of a risk?

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