

WORLDWIDE

# Oxfam director calls on UK to pressurise SA over MNR

**LONDON.** THE director of Oxfam, one of the largest and best-known British non-governmental aid organisations, has called on

the British government to use its powerful influence on South Africa to end Pretoria's support for the bandits of the self-styled Mozam-

bique National Resistance.

Speaking at a Press conference here on Thursday, on his return from a visit to Mozambique, Oxfam director Frank Judd declared himself "shattered" by the damage, destruction and human suffering he saw

caused by banditry. His observations were supported by Mr Peter Wiles, Oxfam's Southern Africa co-ordinator, and Mr Julian Quan, an Oxfam worker in Mozambique, who described the horrific experiences of victims of banditry they had spoken to in Niassa and Zambezia provinces.

Mr Judd congratulated Oxfam workers in Mozambique for their courage and hard work. He also paid warm tribute to the "high calibre, commitment and effectiveness" of Mozambican government workers of the Disaster Control Office.

He noted that even the most destitute of the refugees fleeing from the depredations of the bandits do not want to remain dependent on food aid and ask urgently for seeds and tools in order to resume their own production.

Mr Judd reported that he had found "a tremendous amount of appreciation in Mozambique" for the support of the international agencies, and he thanked the British people for their generous response to Oxfam's "Emergency Appeal for Mozambique" which has now reached £5 million. Oxfam is to launch an appeal for blankets for Mozambique in future.

It is the role of Oxfam, Mr Judd said, to "treat the wounds" and try to end the suffering of people. To do that in Mozambique, he said, it was necessary to end the "brutal war" waged by the bandits.

Looking towards the forthcoming Commonwealth conference in Vancouver, Canada, Mr Judd said that "the assembled authority and strength of the Commonwealth should have the full-hearted support of the British government to bring strong pressure to bear on the South African government to stop the backers of the MNR". — ZIANA-ALM.