

Raul Domingos in London

Domingos' visit to Britain was organised by a pro-Renamo group, calling itself the "Mozambique Institute", and by Andrew Hunter, a British conservative MP who claims to have attended a Renamo congress in bandit-held territory in central Mozambique last December.

On 18 February, Domingos spoke to backbench Conservative MPs in the House of Commons, and gave a thinly-attended press conference. Here he wheeled out Renamo's familiar line that the atrocities attributed to it are in fact the work of the Mozambican army or of militiamen.

A journalist working with the charity, the Save the Children

Fund, challenged this, and asked about a recent ambush in Zambezia province in which Renamo stole food and other goods intended for displaced people in the district of Namarroi, and then set the trucks on fire.

Domingos tried to challenge the veracity of this incident. "Who told you this?", he demanded.

"I'm telling you", retorted the journalist. "I was in Namarroi. I spoke with people. And people know who is Renamo and who is Frelimo".

Domingos also tried to attribute Renamo's bloodstained image to "government

propaganda", and notably to AIM.

The Executive Director of the Mozambique Institute, David Hottle, was also on the platform. He is originally a white Zimbabwean, and just as Ian Smith's secret services had directed Renamo in its early days, so he felt himself obliged to run Domingos' press conference. With no sign of embarrassment he repeatedly interrupted Domingos, correcting him, adding to his remarks, or switching the topic under discussion.

The British media largely ignored Domingos. Of the establishment press, only one paper, the *Financial Times*, reported the Renamo press conference.