

MOZAMBIQUE
WAGES WAR AGAINST
PORTUGAL

ARTUR XAVIER LAMBO VILANKULU
SOUTHERN AFRICA COMMITTEE
UNIVERSITY CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT
475 RIVER SIDE DR.
ROOM 754
NEW YORK, NY. 10027
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In 1961, 62, and 63 Portugal killed thousands of defenceless people in Angola, including women and children. At that time the New York Times covered the events and has shown the victory gained by Portugal against "African terrorists". After unsuccessful peace negotiations, the Angolans organized themselves and are now fighting a heavy war against Portugal. The people in so called Portuguese Guinea are doing the same. Likewise on September 24, 1964 the people in Mozambique under the Mozambique Liberation Front (FRELIMO) headed by Dr. Eduardo C. Mondlane, started to wage a bitter war against the Portuguese exploiters. After having spoken to different organizations in America concerning our struggles, I discovered that the people were and still are astonished to hear that there is a war going on in Mozambique. One man said "Is there really war in Mozambique? I have not seen anything in our press concerning the war in Mozambique or in Portuguese colonies in general. And I did not know where Mozambique was until Smith declared unilateral independence, and I read in the press that the forbidden oil goes through Portuguese Mozambique via Beira to Rhodesia. The other thing I read was about the war in Angola in 1961, 62, and 63, but that fighting is all over as the rebels are under Portuguese control." A few Americans may have read the occasional news stories on Portuguese, such as the one in 1966. According to the New York Times correspondent Drew Middleton, there is peace and brotherhood in Mozambique. In Angola, he reported, there is good relationship among Africans and Portuguese and it is predicted that each one of the 50,000 Portuguese soldiers will have 6 children (Mullato-Misto) with African women as sign of good relationship between the two races. In December of the same year 1966 another New York Times correspondent Lawrence Fellows, who has his office in Nairobi, Kenya, gave the impression to American people that there is some minor agitation in the Northern part of Mozambique caused by the "Makonde Tribe", however, it is under Portuguese control. I tried to explain to my audience the truth, and I gave some of them a copy of the article written by Great Britain's journalist Lord Kilbracker called "Portugal Fights Bitter War Against Frelimo". The article was an eye opener to my American audience. They did not understand why their journalists do not write the truth about the war. Yes indeed why?

WHY?

Why is it that the war in Mozambique as well as other Portuguese colonies is forgotten or ignored by the U.S. press? Why is it that New York Times correspondent Drew Middleton and Lawrence Fellows did not really tell the truth to the American people about the war in Mozambique when they visited there? Why is it that they wrote in favor of Portugal, instead of informing the American people the realities? Why did they not remain neutral as a journalist should be? Why is it that in 1961, 62, and 63 the war in Angola was in the headlines showing t. Portuguese victory, and now that the Angolans are well-prepared militarily and are winning the war it is no longer written in the headlines? In fact why is it that the press does not write about the progress in general in Africa, and that the little that they write is a contradiction of what Africa really is? These why's as well as others are not only asked by me, but also by my colleagues, African students studying in this country who are frustrated, because they do not see anything good written in the press about their beloved countries. Perhaps American have their own why's concerning Africa and their ignorance of it. Do they believe that Africans sleep in trees and that they eat "white men"? If they have realize that they knowledge of Africa is so limited, can they findout why?

THE TRUTH SPEAKS FOR ITSELF

Peaceful means are those often chosen by the African to solve their problems and to shake off their heavy load of colonialism and exploitation. For a long period of time, the people in Mozambique tried unsuccessfully to use peaceful means to liberate themselves from the Portuguese colonial yoke. However, because of the assistance that Portugal receives from her allies, she has ignored completely the possibility of peaceful settlement, and has chosen the hard road - the war. The Africans do not fear Portugal no matter how much aid she receives from her allies. Since Sept. 24, 1964, the African people began to wage war against Portuguese imperialists and from that time up to this minute, there has been bitter war between African nationalists and Portuguese rebels. The Mozambique Liberation Front (FRELIMO) said in its communique No 77, dated Nov. 28 1966 that in the period November 2-11, there were combats in which more than 35 Portuguese soldiers were killed, and 5 cars destroyed by the nationalists fighters. The communique continued, " On the 2nd November, 1966, a convoy of 7 Portuguese military cars left from Mocimboa da Praia, carrying Portuguese soldiers as far as Nambude region. In the courses of the journey the said convoy fell among mines placed by the nationalists.

The car heading the convoy was completely destroyed and 8 Portuguese soldiers lost their lives. The following day, two detachments of enemy troops from Mocimboa da Praia went in search of the Frelimo guerrillas. The nationalists overheard the advent of the troops. An ambush was planned. The guerrillas concentrated heavy fire on the Portuguese soldiers. The strength of the enemy was superior in the assault, so that it was impossible to take count of enemies killed.

On the 5th November, 1966, the Portuguese soldiers as they were coming from the Chai Administrative Post, were attacked unawares by FRELIMO guerrillas. Due to the numerous enemy troops, the nationalists, after the operation, withdrew from the embattled zone. However, later, on passing via de scene of the fight, the blood on the ground showed that untold number of Portuguese troops were killed or wounded.

On the 6th November, 1966, an anti-car mine placed by the nationalists on the Mueda-Nacata road destroyed two Portuguese military cars.

On the 9th November, 1966, a militia, of FRELIMO, attacked a group of Portuguese soldiers in the NIMU region. The enemy was descending upon NIMU from Mueda with the intention of going to burn the villages.

On the 11th November, 1966, the nationalists mined the road that goes from SAGAL to NAMAUA. When the convoy of three Portuguese military cars transporting soldiers was passing in that direction, it fell in the centre of the trap. The two front cars were destroyed, with 20 Portuguese soldiers killed. The last car turned back with full speed.

WAR FOR DIGNITY
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Capitalism and Communism are becoming abstracts in war of words. I said abstract because those who advocated and brought the Capitalist and Communist concepts, are now shaking hands, exchanging scientists, having direct communication either by satellite or planes as sign of friendship and brotherhood. However, the small nations are suffering and are victims of these two words. Consequently some of the people today are being killed for words. The people in Mozambique, however, are fighting for freedom and dignity. For almost 5 centuries we have been oppressed by the Portuguese colonialists and exploiters. As result of Portuguese oppression, the people in Mozambique never know what is going on in the outside world. Now they want to be free to educate their children, to have freedom of movement, of speech and to be able to own the land on which generations of

them have been born. These as well as other rights have not been exercised by the Africans under the Portuguese yoke. Portugal and her allies still believe that Africans under western control are completely free. Portugal's and her allies' stand against African freedom and dignity was further illustrated in the United Nations' Fourth Committee (document A/C.4/L.842) on November 30, 1966 when they voted against a strong resolution which condemned Portuguese colonialism as a crime against humanity. I attended the meeting and I was shocked when some western governments including U.S.A voted against it. According to them the Salazar regime is not acting against freedom and dignity. They ignore the fact that not only are the people under Portuguese colonies suffering, but also the people in Portugal itself are suffering. They do not have enough to eat and cannot educate their children, for the government budget is concentrated on the war. More than 50% of the Portuguese budget is being spent in the war in her African colonies. In 1966 for instance Portugal spent 150 million dollars on the war, double that which they expected.

Many young Africans are starting to wonder about the meaning of the democracy and freedom about which the western governments preach. Once I saw a western film on TV called "Sitting Bull". The film was about Indians being attacked by the American troops. It happened that the American Indians outnumbered the white Americans, hence they were defeated. While they were celebrating their victory, one American soldier came to negotiate with the Chief. The Indian Chief said to him, "You white men speak many tongues, you say something and at the same time you mean the contrary of what you are saying. Besides, "he continued", you white men when you win war against us you call it victory, but when the Indians win you call it "massacre."

The African people are now starting to wonder if the western governments are speaking many tongues against them.