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"COMMUNITY IS LOCAL AND GLOBAL"

Dear Friends:

Mozambique is again under attack. This time each of us must respond!! (See "...Centuries of Struggle..." on page 2) Torrential rains and record shattering floods resulting from a succession of four cyclones, between January and May, have left Mozambique devastated. Nearly one thousand people have died from the winds, rains and flooding. More than 1 million Mozambicans have lost their homes. Countless clinics and health centers were literally washed away. In the aftermath, flood-related disease and illness are spreading, while medicines, healthcare workers and health professionals are extremely scarce.

Generally, the world community was slow and inadequate in its response; especially the governments of the wealthiest nations. However, a corps of 'frontline' volunteer organizations, including the Mozambique Red Cross (CVM), France-based Doctors Without Borders, various church agencies and a few other organizations, were quick to come to Mozambique's aid. The response of the people and the relief agency workers has been heroic, yet much more is needed. This immediate response saved many lives, almost miraculously, in light of the embarrassingly weak initial response of those most able to help. Amid a loud, virtually unanimous call by the Relief Community for much more assistance, some wealthy nations and some poor nations have sent crucially needed financial, medical and material aid. This 'second wave' of support is 'struggling along'. However, disaster relief officials acknowledge that Mozambique's recovery will require a long term commitment for assistance from the international community.

While Mozambique was hardest hit, other neighboring nations in this southeastern region of Africa, were also severely affected. The island of Madagascar and portions of Zimbabwe and South Africa have suffered the loss of hundreds of lives as well as crippling destruction. The region needs hundreds of billions in funds and material aid. Equally important will be a commitment by the international community to implement a regional recovery strategy that strongly supports sustainable redevelopment.

Friends, our support is needed, both now and over the long term. S.E.E.D.S. is contributing funds now and also working to promote development that respects the environment, conserves resources and encourages localized economic empowerment. Please do the same. The plight of these tens of millions of people has already faded from the news. We must continue our support. Stay personally informed and inform others. Use the internet. Get involved and help bring about needed change!

*For S.E.E.D.S.,
Jacqueline Wright & E. Anthony Mackall*

IN MOZAMBIQUE, CENTURIES OF STRUGGLE CONTINUES

The very unnatural "natural disaster" that has devastated Mozambique in the past few months, is but the most recent in a string of cataclysmic events that have shaped the history of this south east Africa nation. The tragic, future-altering effects on Mozambique of four cyclones in less than three months; torrential rains and record flooding; great loss of life and epidemic-like disease, would challenge the resolve of any people. However, the courageous and resilient Mozambicans shall, once again, overcome.

Half a millenium ago (1498) Portuguese explorers, seeking fortune and to extend their national empire, landed on Mozambique's coast and began trading with the indigenous people. These rather sinister aspirations marred Portugal's early contacts throughout Africa, and led to a 'Portuguese version' of the oppressive, highly exploitative global system of European Colonialism. The people of the region resisted fiercely as Portugal's "trading agenda" was exposed

to really be an "expansionist agenda". Over the centuries, Mozambicans fought many wars—sometimes struggling for decades—to thwart Portugal's unrelenting attempts to 'own' their lands, natural resources and lives. [NOTE: AFRICA, LONG A COLONIAL TARGET, WAS FORMALLY "DIVVIED-UP" AMONG SEVERAL EUROPEAN NATIONS AT THE CONGRESS OF BERLIN 1884-85. THIS, IN PART, AMOUNTED TO LEGALIZING THE CONTINUED RAPE OF ONE CONTINENT BY THE ELITES AND MERCENARIES OF ANOTHER. IT ALSO ENABLED THE PENETRATION TO BECOME MORE ORDERLY, SYSTEMATIC AND PROFITABLE. PORTUGAL WAS CEDED MOZAMBIQUE, ANGOLA, GUINEA-BISSAU, THE CAPE VERDE ISLS AND SAO TOME & PRINCIPE ISLS.]

Finally, *the people organized* by the Mozambique Liberation Front (FRELIMO) broke their colonial shackles in the mid 1970s. Victory was hastened by a coup in Portugal in April 1974. The coup itself was largely the result of Portugal's concurrent colonial wars with Mozambique (southeast coast), Angola (southwest coast) and Guinea-Bissau/Cape Verde (northwest coast). The increasingly unpopular wars triggered social, economic and political turmoil inside of Portugal. After the coup, these wars were

soon ended as tens of thousands of Portuguese soldiers surrendered 'in the field'.

On June 25, 1975, Mozambique officially became an independent nation. That was twenty-five years ago; and thirteen years to the day after the forming of FRELIMO. The people and their friends and allies all over the world rejoiced. Yet, as Mozambicans enthusiastically embarked on the new phase of *nation building*, they were horrifically waylaid.

[NOTE: THE WHITE SUPREMACIST, SETTLER REGIMES IN SOUTH AFRICA, RHODESIA (NOW ZIMBABWE) AND SOUTH WEST AFRICA (NOW NAMIBIA) HAD NOT YET FALLEN. THESE CONTIGUOUS STATES WERE ALL STAUNCHLY COMMITTED TO QUASHING THE NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS WITHIN THEIR BORDERS. TOWARD THAT END, THE REGIMES CREATED OR AT LEAST FINANCED VERY LARGE, ARMED AND MURDEROUS OUTLAW GANGS TO OPERATE IN THE NEWLY INDEPENDENT, BORDERING NATIONS OF MOZAMBIQUE AND ANGOLA. LED BY SOUTH AFRICA, THE SUPREMACISTS THEORIZED THAT THE PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENTS OF THESE TWO 'FRONTLINE' NATIONS, VULNERABLE FROM DECADES OF COLONIAL WAR, COULD DO LITTLE TO HELP THEIR NEIGHBORS IF THEY WERE FULLY OCCUPIED IN NEW, "CIVIL" WARS. THE SUPREMACISTS WERE, OF COURSE NOT ONLY WRONG, BUT THEIR REGIMES HAVE ALL BEEN DISMANTLED AND REPLACED BY DEMO-

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CRATIC, MAJORITY-RULE SYSTEMS.]

Newly independent Mozambique was attacked by a brutal, heavily armed force of Mozambican renegades that were bankrolled by South Africa's apartheid regime. The renegades, known as Renamo, operated largely in remote, rural areas. In a thinly veiled cover of their apartheid connection, the force espoused anti-FRELIMO political rhetoric and claimed to be waging a civil war. They were especially infamous for their terrorist tactics against the civilian population. Renamo received and planted thousands of landmines throughout the countryside. (The

flooding has added years to the very dangerous and expensive work of locating, defusing and removing the mines.) Murder, mutilation of all types, kidnap and rape were their 'stock and trade'. Before their defeat, just eight years ago, Renamo, via the "deep pockets" of the white supremacists, made war against its own people and wrought the havoc of 100 cyclones.

As long, brutish and destructive as this war was, Mozambique struggled in virtual obscurity. The immensely important story was ignored by major media as well as the broader international community. Mozambique has subsequently had

only modest financial or material support. Much of that in the form of loans with requirements that actually debilitate the nation's efforts to become self-sufficient. Debt cancellation is crucial.

Mozambique and its people have withstood so much and now need a chance for comprehensive, sustainable development. It is a nation rich in resources, yet twenty-five years after independence, it remains one of the poorest on the planet. **Four cyclones and flooding have again left Mozambique under attack. This time each of us must respond!!**

Limpopo valley

(BBC)



Food is starting to reach those who have survived the ordeal

Refugees will need food aid for months to come



Clean water is equally important

(BBC)

CONTRIBUTE DIRECTLY TO MOZAMBIQUE'S FLOOD RELIEF & RECOVERY EFFORT

**Make Checks / Money Orders Payable to: (1) Mozambique Permanent Mission to the U.N. - Flood Relief
OR**

(2) Mozambique Red Cross (CVM) - Flood Relief

Mail to: Mozambique Permanent Mission to the U.N. * 420 E. 50th Street * New York, NY 10022



The Guardian

IN MEMORY OF EDUARDO MONDLANÉ AND SAMORA MACHEL, COMRADES, CHAIRMEN OF *FRELIMO* AND MARTYRS OF THE MOZAMBICAN PEOPLE'S CONTINUING STRUGGLE FOR SELF DETERMINATION. EACH MAN'S LIFE AND LEADERSHIP WERE PURE REFLECTIONS OF THE GREAT LOVE AND RESPECT THEY HAD FOR THEIR PEOPLE.

TODAY, MOZAMBIQUE IS FIGHTING TO OVERCOME PUNISHING CYCLONES, RECORD FLOODING AND THE PALL OF DEATH, DISEASE AND DESTRUCTION. IN THE WAKE OF THIS DISASTER, WE ARE ONCE AGAIN SEEING THE COMMITMENT OF MOZAMBICANS TO ONE ANOTHER, AND THEIR TENACITY TO REBUILD THEIR LIVES AND NATION. MOZAMBIQUE'S CAPACITY TO REBOUND IN THE FACE OF INCREDIBLE ADVERSITY, IS CERTAINLY A PRODUCT OF ITS HISTORY OF STRUGGLE...AND PART OF THE LEGACY OF EDUARDO AND SAMORA.

THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES! A LUTA CONTINUA!

WORK WITH S.E.E.D.S. TO BUILD COMMUNITY LOCALLY AND GLOBALLY

To Contribute: TO THE FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN, CONTACT ANITA HALL-DAVIS, FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE
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For an informative, entertaining speaker on "SUSTAINABLE STRATEGIES IN OUR GLOBAL COMMUNITY"

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