

IT was in the early morning hours of August 2 when misled rebels attacked the Caprivi police station, Mpacha military base and the NBC building, killing 6 members of the security forces and injuring others.

Fellow compatriots, Gwen Lister and other critics, men's lives were taken away by this so called secessionist attempt. Normal activities were disrupted because of this attack.

Those who were killed were breadwinners and their families and relatives are left behind still mourning their deaths.

To make matters worse, the rebels were assisted by some members of the local population and are (maybe) known by the families

of the deceased and they were in civilian clothes, according to the press release. Some rebels were captured, some ran away and others are maybe hiding in the homesteads of some local supporters.

It is obvious that because of this, things changed overnight and it is obvious that security forces will come in their hundreds to restore peace and order.

Man has to understand the theatre of war. There will be no mercy, no human rights, no freedom of movement and no tolerance. Six members of the security forces were killed and one has to understand their behav-

our in the light of this and the fact that they have to patrol the streets of Caprivi to protect law abiding citizens and private properties.

It is also abnormal to expect the rebels will give information freely. Something must be done to ensure information is accurate and certain methods should be followed and force is inevitable.

What do you think would have happened if the security force members were captured. Unthinkable things would have happened (to them) in the bushes of Zambia and Angola.

Don't dramatise events for financial pur-

pose and think also of those who were left behind. The fall of Caprivi is the fall of the Republic. God bless the security forces.

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Note: We publish this letter because the sentiment expressed seems to be a fairly popular one, judging from responses to NBC chat shows. However, we must emphasise that such heavy-handed action on the part of security forces is not only constitutionally and otherwise illegal, but also counterproductive. The death of members

of the security forces at the hands of the rebels, is to be condemned at all costs, as well as the incursion itself. But these do not justify such actions on the part of security forces against people who may or may not be suspects, even in a state of emergency. We remind those speaking in favour of such brutalities of a similar situation during the years of the liberation struggle, when similarly, members of the South African security forces used excessive force, including torture, against civilians in the far north, also on the grounds that they were providing assistance to Plan freedom fighters. That, we remind you, was as unacceptable then as it is now. - Ed

Force Is Justified

On Killings And Torture