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ANGOLA SAYS IT DROVE BACK SOUTH AFRICAN ATTACKS, KILLED 40

LISBON, Aug 12, Reuter - Angola's Defence Ministry said today Angolan forces had driven back two attacks by South African troops on a strategic south-eastern Angolan town, killing 40 of the attackers and capturing four.

A ministry statement quoted today by the official Angolan news agency ANGOP said three South African battalions backed by armoured cars and heavy artillery attacked Cuito Cuanavale in Cuando Cubango province on Sunday and again early yesterday.

Two Angolan soldiers were killed in the attacks and 23 civilians were killed and 18 wounded by South African shelling of the town, the statement

added.

South Africa's defence force has so far declined to comment on the reported attack by its troops on Cuito Cuanavale, which lies some 300 km (185 miles) inside south-east Angola.

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