

DURBAN — Escaped convicts from a remote Madagascan penal colony are believed to have murdered the missing Durban yachtsman, Mr Trevor Walch, and his German crew-member, Miss Christine Kaelbe, and then plundered their yacht, Magic Carpet.

This is the dramatic claim that came to light yesterday following reports received by a Durban yachtsman, Mr Dave Deacon.

Mr Deacon, a Point Yacht Club member who has just returned from a charter trip to northern Madagascar, said the harbour captain of Nossi Be island told him on May 17 that Mr Walch

## *Missing sailors believed murdered*

and Miss Kaelbe had been murdered two days earlier by a party of five convicts, who escaped from Nosy Lava — Madagascar's equivalent of Alcatraz.

"He told me the convicts killed a guard at the penal colony and stole an AK-47. They had later encountered the Durban couple, asked them for a lift to the mainland, and then murdered them."