

# Renamo used chemicals in attack on town: Claim

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MAPUTO. — The Mozambican authorities believe Renamo rebels may have used chemical weapons in an attack on a town close to the border with South Africa, State radio said.

Its armed forces programme reported late on Wednesday that chemical weapons may have been used in the attack on the south-western town of Macaene, 10 km from the border with South Africa's Transvaal province.

The programme "Voice of Combat" said a team of South African military and civilian doctors had visited the capital Maputo at the government's invitation and took away samples from Mozambican soldiers killed in the January 16 attack.

It said officials from Mozambique and other countries would also analyse samples to try and establish the cause of death. No details of their injuries have been made public.

The tenth round of

peace talks between Maputo and the Right-wing Renamo to end 16 years of civil war opened in Rome on Tuesday, in what officials said was a constructive atmosphere.

Following its usual practice, the army has not said how many men it lost in the fighting at Macaene, which lies on a road junction in the Magude district of Maputo province.

— Sapa-Reuter.