

Renamo used chemicals in attack — Frelimo

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MAPUTO. — Preliminary investigations have produced evidence that the Renamo rebels used chemical weapons in an attack on government soldiers last month, the general staff of the Mozambican armed forces said in a statement.

The statement conflicts with a negative finding by SADF doctors who went to Maputo to examine the bodies of the soldiers killed in the action and took away tissue samples for testing.

The Mozambican general staff said that by issuing a unilateral statement on its own findings, South Africa had breached an agreement that the findings of the investigation into the incident would be disclosed jointly.

The general staff statement said that autopsies carried out on the dead and clinical observations of the survivors "reveal that the soldiers were the victims of poisoning caused by a chemical agent with a violent action, particularly on the nervous system."

At least five soldiers died and 10 were taken to hospital after the attack by Renamo on January 16. government forces were trying to capture a base at Ngungwe, near the border with the Kruger National Park.

No comment was available from the SADF today on the Mozabican general staff's statement.

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