

Mozambique army kills 50 rebels

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MAPUTO. — Government forces killed about 50 rebel soldiers in a night-long battle to retake an occupied northern port, the national AIM news agency reported yesterday.

Mr Alfredo Gamito, governor of the northern province of Nampula, told AIM the Mozambique military regained control of the port of Angoche on Thursday morning.

Mr Gamito, who visited the battleground, said in addition

to the rebel casualties, seven civilians fleeing the area died when their boats capsized.

The government accused Renamo rebels of killing 40 government soldiers in their seizure of Angoche early in the week and said it was one of four towns occupied by the rebels in violation of a ceasefire.

The ceasefire, signed on October 4, was to have ended 16 years of civil war, but each side

has accused the other of violations in the northern and central parts of the country.

The United Nations' special representative in Mozambique, Mr Aldo Ajello, has called a meeting on Monday with the government and Renamo to discuss ways of supervising the pact's implementation.

AIM reported that UN observers deployed in Mozambique have so far offered no comment on the Angoche fighting.

The Mozambican war killed more than 600 000 people and devastated the nation's economy, leaving more than half the 15 million population in need of food aid.

Two years of peace talks led to the signing of the peace accord by President Joaquim Chissano and rebel leader Mr Afonso Dhlakama. Southern and central Mozambique have been reported calm. — Sapa-AP