

# Rivals in Mozambican war sit down to negotiate

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**NAIROBI** — Delegations from the Mozambican government and the Renamo rebel movement have arrived here to begin negotiations, brokered by the Kenyan government, aimed at ending the civil war that has ravaged Mozambique for more than 10 years.

This is the first time that representatives of the Mozambican government and rebels have had face-to-face discussions and the meeting represents the most promising step yet taken to end the fighting.

Renamo's delegation is headed by the leader of the rebel movement, Mr Afonso Dhlakama. The Frelimo government has sent a relatively low-level delegation. The talks are seen by knowledgeable analysts as having enormous potential significance in that they represent the first concrete steps that have yet been taken to end the conflict.

The Frelimo delegation is accompanied by senior church leaders from Mozambique, where the churches have played an important role in promoting the concept of negotiation to end the war and in bringing the parties together.

The Nairobi meeting is being closely watched not only by the South African Government but by the major Western powers and the Soviet Union, which have increasingly been cooperating in efforts to find negotiated solutions to conflicts in the region.