

# Mozambique peace talks continue

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said.

EFFORTS by Zimbabwe and Kenya to mediate between the government and bandits in Mozambique are continuing quietly but neither side is ready for face-to-face talks, Kenyan foreign ministry sources said on Wednesday.

The sources said the last meeting between Mozambican church leaders, representing the government in Maputo, and MNR leaders took place in the Kenyan capital six weeks ago.

Since then, they said, Kenyan and Zimbabwean mediators had held a series of separate meetings with Mozambican government and MNR representatives.

The secretary for foreign affairs, Cde Elleck Mashingaidze, and his Kenyan counterpart, Mr Bethwell Kiplagat, had their latest meeting with MNR leaders in Nairobi last Friday, the sources

Zimbabwe and Kenya began mediating between Maputo and the MNR bandits in August.

President Mugabe paid a flying visit to Nairobi on September 20 for talks with Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi aimed at speeding up progress in the peace talks.

But the foreign ministry sources said there was no agreement yet for direct talks between the bandits and the Maputo government.

The Mozambican government has demanded that MNR formally renounce terrorism and banditry and recognise the government's legitimacy before full-scale peace talks begin.

MNR representatives had countered with demands for the withdrawal of Zimbabwean troops stationed in Mozambique guarding Beira Corridor. — Ziana-Reuter.