

# Mugabe in Kenya for talks on Renamo

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From Karl Maier  
in Harare

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THE FATE of the six-month-old diplomatic effort to negotiate an end to Mozambique's 14-year-old civil war hung in the balance yesterday as two African heads of state attempted to restart the stalled peace process yesterday in Nairobi.

Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe, accompanied by his security minister, Sidney Sekeramayi, arrived in Nairobi on Thursday for talks with Daniel arap Moi, the Kenyan President. The Mozambican President, Joaquim Chissano, named Mr Mugabe and Mr Moi as mediators in the conflict in July.

Diplomatic and intelligence sources said the new initiative could include the first-ever meeting between Mr Mugabe and Afonso Dhlakama, leader of the Mozambique National Resistance (Renamo) rebel movement. Zimbabwe has stationed at least 7,000 troops in central and southern Mozambique to fight the rebels.

The new round of Nairobi talks was designed to break the impasse in the diplomatic effort to end the war, which has killed 100,000 civilians, forced one million people into neighbouring countries and left at least five million dependent on international food aid.

The talks have been at a standstill since mid-October, when the rebels rejected Mr Chissano's offer to participate as individuals in the 1991 general elections. While the authorities in Maputo have demanded that the rebels recognise the Frelimo government as legitimate and lay down their arms, Mr Dhlakama has called for recognition of Renamo as a political movement and for direct talks between equals.

Mr Chissano has stuck to the Frelimo position that because Renamo was formed in the 1970s by the government of Rhodesia, now the independent nation of Zimbabwe, and was later sponsored by South Africa, it has no legitimacy as a political party.

Mr Dhlakama, on the other hand, has maintained that since his 20,000-strong rebel army has not been defeated on the battlefield, there is no reason to quit fighting and willingly disappear as a movement. Mozambican officials also believe Mr Dhlakama's supporters in the United States and South Africa have advised him to await the results of a parallel peace effort in Angola.