The rebel Mozambique National Resistance (MNR) has announced that direct peace talks with the government could begin as early as February, Its Lisbon spokesman, Manuel Frank, told Reuters on 4 January that the MNR was

encouraged by recent government statements. "We are slowly moving towards direct talks, perhaps as early as February," he said, adding that Nairobi was a likely venue. The Mozambican government was seriously

considering recommendations by Kenyan and Zimbabwean mediators to hold direct talks. Frank said.