

Renamo rejects pluralism

The chief Renamo negotiator, and head of the bandits' foreign affairs department, Raul Domingos, denounced the formation of new Mozambican political parties in an interview published on 7 December by the Lisbon daily *Diario de Noticias*.

Domingos flatly declared that all new Mozambican parties "are creations of Frelimo". He alleged that Mozambican opposition figures not linked to Renamo "are just a new version of Frelimo", naming in particular Carlos Rets and Artur Vilanculos.

Carlos Rets is the General Secretary of UNAMO (Mozambique National Union), a party that broke away from Renamo in 1988, while Vilanculos, a

Mozambican living in the United States who was involved with Renamo in the early 1980s, is a singularly bad example for Domingos to choose, since he has publicly announced that he will not set up a new party.

Domingos said that the appearance of new parties in Mozambique, before a law on the subject was agreed between the government and Renamo in the Rome talks, could "complicate the political situation, and ensure that peace will only be momentary". This is a clear threat from Renamo to continue the war if it fails to impose its own conditions on Mozambican politics.

Domingos denied that the creation of new parties would

weaken Renamo, and said they would "just be in chorus with Frelimo against Renamo".

Domingos thus unwittingly confirmed a warning given by President Joaquim Chissano in September, when he said that in reality Renamo was opposed to political pluralism - when it spoke of a multi-party system, it really meant a two-party system, just itself and Frelimo.

Domingos also told *Diario de Noticias* that Renamo wanted a political agreement with the government on "the institutionalisation of democracy", and the creation of what he called "a national army" before it would agree to a ceasefire.