

Army to hit back at MNR bandits if attacked

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WHILE Zimbabwean troops will hit back when attacked by the MNR bandits in the two transport corridors in Mozambique, they will not go beyond the limits designated under the partial ceasefire accord signed between the bandits and the Mozambican government.

President Mugabe told a Press conference in Harare yesterday that despite the ceasefire violations by the MNR, he was prepared to wait and see if the bandits were really ignoring the peace accord.

"One must wait for a while to determine whether Renamo (Portuguese acronym for MNR) is ignoring the peace process and, therefore, cheated the Mozambican government into signing the (accord). We will have to wait and I am prepared to wait," he said.

"... But we should now alert our (troops) so that they don't remain in the corridor as sitting ducks to be fired on by Renamo. They should certainly fire back in self-defence," he said.

However, he said they would not be allowed to go beyond the partial ceasefire limits.

But once Zimbabwe was satisfied that the MNR bandits were fighting its old war and not taking the peace process seriously, Zimbabwe would then consult the Mozambican government on what measures to take.