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Mozambique

Renamo Accuses ~~Government~~ of Blocking Peace

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[Text] Mozambican rebels have accused the government of blocking peace talks in Rome by refusing to discuss several key issues. The rebels say the government is refusing to discuss the dismantling of private armies and the secret police; release of political prisoners; and the return of refugees.

In a statement issued in Lisbon yesterday, Renamo [Mozambique National Resistance] said the Frelimo [Mozambique Liberation Front] government's contention is that these issues are not part of a previously approved agenda for the peace talks.

Diplomats say by private armies the rebels are referring to the security forces maintained by several large companies to protect their installations in Mozambique.

An estimated 500,000 Mozambicans have fled abroad to escape the fighting, most of them to Malawi.