

MNR bandits agree to resume peace talks

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LISBON.

MNR bandits said on Monday they had agreed to resume peace talks with the Mozambican government in Rome next week.

The bandits said in a statement in Lisbon that MNR leader Afonso Dhlakama met the Italian mediator in the talks "in one of the countries of Southern Africa" at the weekend.

The two men reviewed the 15-month-old peace initiative by the Italian government and the Catholic Church and agreed a fresh round of talks should start in Rome on October 4 or 5.

The bandits said last week the Italian mediator had invited meetings in Rome to try to relaunch peace efforts, which have made little progress in the seven rounds of negotiations so far.

But the Mozambican government said it had received no such invitation.

The seventh round of talks between the authorities in Maputo and the bandits, which for many years received covert backing from South Africa, ended last month in an impasse on most major issues. — Ziana-
Reuter.