

# Mozambicans open 8th round of peace talks <sup>(t)</sup>

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ROME.

NEGOTIATORS for the Mozambican government and the MNR bandits will open an eighth-round of peace talks here today, the Italian foreign ministry announced on Saturday.

The new round follows a series of preparatory meetings between mediators and the opposing sides. The foreign ministry said the talks will allow focus on proposals submitted during the last round of laws regulating multi-party elections.

Negotiators last met on August 9 to discuss proposed election laws presented by the mediators.

The talks, which began in July last year, seek to end 14 years of bandit activity that began two years after Mozambique gained independence from Portugal in 1975. The fighting has left 600 000 people dead.

Mozambique's government has instituted democratic reforms over the past year, including a new constitution for free elections and a multi-party system.

The MNR bandits have rejected the constitution, complaining that it was drafted by the governing Frelimo party.

The peace talks in Rome, which earlier led to a partial ceasefire, are being mediated by the Italian government, a Rome-based Roman Catholic charity group and a Mozambique archbishop. — Ziana-AP.