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Support peace talks — Renamo

MAPUTO. — Mozambican rebel leader Alfonso Dhlakama has called on southern African countries, the United States and the European Community to support peace talks between his Renamo movement and the Maputo government, rebel radio said.

The radio, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), quoted the Renamo (Mozambique National Resistance) leader as blaming the ruling Frelimo party for the failure of the last round of peace talks in Rome last month.

He said Frelimo had refused to discuss "democratic and positive electoral principles" put forward by his movement.

Call on

"Renamo president Alfonso Dhlakama would like to call on southern African leaders, the US, and EC countries to firmly support the ongoing peace talks in Rome," the radio said.

Zimbabwe is Frelimo's staunchest ally in the region. Renamo has often accused the Zimbabwe government, which has an esti-

mated 7 000 troops in Mozambique guarding its trade routes, of failing to put pressure on Maputo to end the civil war.

"The Frelimo totalitarian regime only wants to see an end to the war so that it can continue in power," he said.

Nearly two years of talks between Frelimo and Renamo, which has been fighting for 16 years to topple the Mozambican government, have failed to produce a cease-fire. — Sapa-Reuters.