

Peace

# Africa Working Group

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*N.B. Correct  
date should be:  
-9 JUN 1992*

9 June 1990

To: Dom Matteo Zuppi, Community of San Egidio  
Fax: 011-39-6-580-0197  
From: Africa Working Group, Maryknoll, New York  
Fax: 914-923-0733

Dear Fr. Zuppi,

We are a group of religious men and women who have been working in various parts of Africa for many years. Some of us have worked in Mozambique or with refugees from Mozambique in east and southern Africa. We are writing to express our concern about the lack of progress in the Mozambique peace talks.

We are grateful to you and your community for accepting to coordinate the negotiations between FRELIMO and RENAMO, and for your deep involvement at every step of the way. We are concerned, however, that after two years there is still no ceasefire in place and that RENAMO is allowed to break the partial ceasefire with impunity. As the war continues and the country is also devastated by drought, the possibility of widespread starvation looms closer each day. The tragedy of millions of people slowing dying of hunger should compel each of us to do all in our power to end this senseless war.

When we saw that RENAMO had once more delayed the next round of talks in Rome and was trying to introduce other items on the agenda such as a discussion of the Constitution, we could no longer remain silent. Each day of delay means that hundreds of people will die. We, therefore, urge you to do all in your power to get both parties to the conference table and to keep them there until they have agreed to a total ceasefire. Neither party should be allowed to introduce new items to the agenda or to use other delaying tactics to avoid discussing military issues and a ceasefire. We also suggest that a truce be declared for the remainder of the negotiating process, as President Chissano has proposed.

It appears to us that FRELIMO has made every concession demanded of it, not only at the Conference table, but in restructuring the entire social, political, cultural and economic life of Mozambique. There is no longer any reason for fighting, if ever there was one. We appeal to you to put equal pressure on RENAMO to lay down its arms and accept the political process as the way to bring about change. If RENAMO is allowed to continue getting its way through the barrel of a gun, there is no guarantee that it will accept the results of elections or a return to civilian life.



We appeal to you as fellow Christians to use your considerable influence to convince RENAMO to end its brutal and destructive campaign against an innocent population. We believe that whatever remaining differences it has with the Government can be settled peacefully through dialog and negotiation after the war has ended.

Sincerely yours

Fr. Richard Baker  
Sr. Mary Bowes  
Fr. George Delaney  
Fr. Edward Dougherty  
Sr. Jackie Dorr  
Sr. Marian Teresa Dury  
Bro. James Fahy  
Ms. Marie Giblin  
Sr. Elizabeth Gormley  
Sr. Patricia Hafey  
Fr. Scott Harris  
Fr. Edward Hayes  
Sr. Marion Hughes  
Sr. Teruko Ito  
Sr. Debbie Kair  
Fr. Thomas Keefe  
Sr. Joan Kirsch  
Sr. Geneva Lassiter  
Fr. Jim Lenihan  
Sr. Kathleen Magee  
Sr. Gertrude Maley  
Sr. Janice McLaughlin  
Mr. Terence Miller  
Sr. Rosemarie Milazzo  
Sr. Margaret Monroe  
Sr. Marie Moore  
Fr. John Mullen  
Sr. Euphrasia Nyaki  
Sr. Margaret O'Brien  
Sr. Agnes O'Keefe  
Sr. Kathryn Shannon  
Sr. Dee Smith  
Fr. Thomas Tiscornia  
Fr. William Vos  
Sr. Margaret Rose Winkleman  
Fr. Edward Wroblewski  
Sr. Jean Yamashiro  
Sr. Lucia Yu  
Sr. Maria Zeballos