

End the war now, pleas Chissano

MAPUTO. — Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano has appealed to Renamo rebels to end their 16-year war immediately instead of waiting for the formal signing of a ceasefire on October 1.

"This appeal is addressed to the men of Renamo. There is no reason at all for the continuation of hostilities. We want peace today, not tomorrow," Chissano told a rally in Maputo.

"It makes no sense to go on killing each other. The end of the war should be now. Papers, protocols, more words — this we will carry on doing. But peace is necessary now. Continuation of the violence, is absurd," proclaimed Chissano in an emotional three hour speech.

Chissano's appeal follows an agreement reached with Renamo in Rome on August 7 that a peace accord ending the civil war would be signed by October 1.

The agreement fell short of Chissano's stated aim of an immediate end to a war which is estimated to have claimed more than one million lives. — Sapa-Reuter