

MNR snubs UN meeting on H. (2) truce violations

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THE MNR failed to attend a meeting on Tuesday to discuss government allegations of MNR breaches of the Mozambican ceasefire.

This was the second time in four days that the MNR had boycotted meetings of the Supervisory and Control Commission, the body chaired by UN special representative Mr Aldo Ajello, which is in charge of implementing the October 4 peace agreement.

Instead of attending the Tuesday meeting, the MNR's chief negotiator, Mr Raul Domingos, announced his intention of flying to the MNR bush headquarters in the central district of Maringue.

The government initially presented its complaint of six MNR violations of the ceasefire at a meeting of the ceasefire commission on March 1. The MNR rejected a proposed investigation of the six places named, claiming that the government had not substantiated its accusations and had presented them "in an incorrect form".

Since no consensus was possible on the CCF, the problem was referred to the CSC as the supreme body in charge of the peace agreement.

But Mr Domingos refused to attend the Saturday meeting, again on the basis that the government claims were "unsubstantiated".

He also claimed that Mr Ajello could not organise meetings without prior consent of the MNR. Mr Ajello argues that since he is the chairman of the CSC, he can convene meetings at his discretion and has no need to consult either the government or the MNR first. — Ziana-AFP.