Renamo warns on government delays in demobbina

Renamo leader Afonso Dhlakama warned this week that he will halt the country's military demobilisation process unless the government explains why its own troops are not moving into assembly points.

UN peacekeeping officials have grown increasingly concerned over the last few weeks as the movement of government troops into UNrun assembly areas has slowed to a trickle.

The government has admitted some responsibility, blaming some confinement centres which "do not have the capacity to receive large number of troops", according to deputy planning

minister Tomas Salomao.

Under Mozambique's peace accord to end 16 years of civil war, all troops from both the government army and Renamo should have been assembled by now and five percent should be demobilised this month.

But only 19% of government soldiers have moved to assembly areas, against 52% of Renamo's soldiers

Dhlakama said: "I can't find any motive for this government has all the means, the transport, communications, accomodation facilities, that we don't have "

Mozambican Finance Minister Eneas Comiche denied that the fear of not getting unpaid wages or the six months' demobilisation pay due from the government is the reason government troops are not moving to assembly areas.

There have been several recent incidents where government soldiers have rioted in protest over unpaid wages.

Meanwhile 540 military instructors have arrived to begin training the new joint national army. They consisted of Frelimo and Renamo troops who had themselves been trained by British instructors at Nyanga in Zimbabwe.