UN impatient with Maputo

Argus Africa News Service

MAPUTO. — The international community may abandon Mozambique's peace process if it is delayed beyond October, when it is due to end with the election, said United Nations special representative Aldo Ajello.

Expressing concern at the slow demobilisation of the Frelimo and Renamo forces, Mr Ajello said the international community was not prepared to finance the operation beyond October.

If the election was not held by then, he said, the UN troops would pull out anyway.

Mr Ajello's warning was backed by the British ambassador, Richard Edis, who expressed serious concern at the delays in demobilisation and in forming the new joint army, the FADM.

These delays, he said, "are beginning to cause frustration among all the countries directly involved in the Mozambican process".

He added: "The patience of the international community has limits." He expressed special concern at the delays in the training of FADM's infantry battalions.

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