Renamo men fill UN bases

MAPUTO — Nearly all government troops and rebel fighters had turned themselves in at UN assembly points by July 8, a deadline set under a peace plan that called for elections in October, the UN said yesterday.

More than 43 000 soldiers and about 18 000 rebels reported to the UN-supervised camps, said Aldo Ajello, UN special envoy to Mozambique.

By Friday 95% of the government's army reported to the camps. About 2 500 soldiers were missing, while about 500 Renamo members were unaccounted for.

UN observers knew the whereabouts of most the men still at large and were confident they would trickle in to the assembly points.

The UN hopes to close the 49 assembly camps by late August. — Sapa-AP.