

Kidnapped Moz Min freed unharmed

MAPUTO. — A Mozambican Cabinet Minister said yesterday he had been released unharmed after being held hostage for about six hours by former rebel guerrillas who complained they had not received aid promised by the United Nations.

Minister of Construction and Water Joao Salomao said in an interview with state radio that most

of the 200 travellers held with him on Saturday had also been freed.

Mr Salomao said he had been seized in an ambush while driving from the town of Chimoio near the Zimbabwean border to the Indian Ocean port of Quelimane on a working trip.

"We were intercepted by some men who said they were demobilised

members of RENAMO," the Minister said. "They said they were doing all this because promises that had been made to them had been broken. They alleged that transport which should have been provided to take them to their home areas when they were demobilised on August 11 had still not arrived."

The men also wanted

money, seeds, tools and clothing and blamed the UN Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ). "They said they were taking this action because ONUMOZ made a series of promises which were not being kept," the Minister said.

Mr Salomao said he was released after he promised to transmit the men's grievances to mem-

bers of the UN-chaired joint commission in Maputo which is supervising a peace agreement signed by the Mozambican government and RENAMO in October 1992.

The Minister said he had passed on the message and had advised that no violence should be used against the rebels.

— Sapa-Reuter.

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