

# Renamo men free minister

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MAPUTO. — A Mozambican cabinet minister was freed 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.

Construction and Water Minister Joao Salomao said most of the 200 travellers held with him were also freed.

Mr Salomao was seized in an ambush on Saturday while driving from the town of Chimoio, near the Zimbabwean border, to the Indian Ocean port of Quelimane.

"We were intercepted by some men who said they were demobilised members of Renamo," the minister said. "They said they were doing this because promises to them had been broken."

Mr Salomao said he was freed after promising to pass on the men's grievances to the UN-chaired joint commission in Maputo. — Reuter.