

## **Dhlakama demands disarming of police**

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MAPUTO — Renamo leader Afonso Dhlakama yesterday demanded the immediate disarming of a special police force, which he accused of unnecessary killings, and threatened to pull out of elections next month.

Members of the rapid intervention police had killed more than a dozen people in the past few days as they broke up "peaceful demonstrations", Dhlakama said.

He called for an urgent meeting to discuss the issue with Mozambique's President Joaquim Chissano.

Interior Minister Manuel Antonio said police would respond with force to riots staged by former soldiers.

The rioters, including former Renamo and government soldiers, have taken hostages and robbed civilians over demands for benefits promised at the end of the civil war.

With a joint army not yet functional after the abolition of the government and Renamo armies, the police unit is the only armed force able to put down disturbances. — Sapa-AFP.

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