

## Lines crossed

Malawi's diplomatic representatives appear to have got their lines crossed. Our October story of the use by the Mozambique rebel MNR forces on Malawi territory brought a sharp retort from the High Commission in London.

From a logistical point of view, as described by the High Commission, it was not possible for the MNR to be doing what we said they were: "How can 500 to 1,500 troops march through, or even filter through, such an area to fight on the other side without being detected by people on both sides of the border?"

Meanwhile, in Harare, Zimbabwe, the Malawi High

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Commission had a different story. In a letter to the *Zimbabwe Herald* they admitted the MNR was operating from Malawi — but excused this on geographical grounds: "Malawi and Mozambique share a very long open border and neither government has sufficient resources to patrol every mile of it."

It was not only the *Africa Now* article that stated the MNR operates out of Malawi. Mozambique Foreign Minister Joaquim Chissano said the same when he visited Malawi on October 27 (though he absolved the Malawian Government from blame).