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Renamo Releases Four Portuguese Hostages
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[Excerpt] The Mozambican Renamo today released four Portuguese citizens it had been holding for nearly 3 months. Renamo's spokesman in Europe, Jorge Correia, said in Lisbon that the release was totally at the discretion of Renamo President Afonso Dhlakama. The four Portuguese are Maria Celeste Lemos and three children, Carla, Rui, and Jorge, kidnapped by Renamo last May when they were traveling by road from South Africa to Mozambique.

Jorge Correia stressed that they have been released for humanitarian reasons and because the aim of Renamo's struggle is the defense of the rights of Mozambicans and foreigners alike. He added that Portuguese citizens captured in the future will not be treated with such goodwill because the Portuguese Government and its Foreign Ministry did absolutely nothing about securing the release of the four Portuguese nationals. "I would not be surprised," Jorge Correia continued, "if the Foreign Ministry were now to declare with brazen opportunism that it did its utmost to secure their release, but the truth is that the Renamo leadership was never approached."

A Foreign Ministry spokesman stated that official confirmation of the release of the hostages is still being awaited and that, as has been made public, the Foreign Ministry has been engaged in various demarches to secure the release of a Portuguese woman and three children kidnapped in Mozambique last May.