

Britain hopes deaths won't derail peace talks.

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LONDON, April 7 (Reuter) - Britain expressed dismay on Thursday at the deaths of the presidents of Rwanda and Burundi, killed in a rocket attack on their plane, and said it hoped a regional peace process would not be derailed.

"It was particularly tragic that the incident came at a time when countries of the region had just met in Tanzania to attempt to find a long-term solution to the inter-ethnic conflicts of Rwanda and Burundi," a Foreign Office spokesman said.

Rwandan President Juvenal Habyarimana, 57, and Burundi President Cyprien Ntaryamira, 38, were flying together on Wednesday from Tanzania where they had attended a peace summit.

"We hope that this tragedy will not derail the peace process...that all parties will refrain from further acts of violence and continue to direct their efforts to resolving the inter-ethnic problems," the Foreign Office spokesman said.

Rwanda and Burundi have been ravaged by conflict between their Hutu majorities and Tutsi minorities. Both dead presidents were Hutus.

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