

Fighting rages in Rwandan capital for second day

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KIGALI, April 8 (Reuter) - Fighting raged for a second day in the Rwandan capital Kigali and around its rebel-held parliament early today as rival tribes and political groups battled for control in renewed civil war.

With the country in a power vacuum following the killing of Rwanda's president on Wednesday night and its woman prime minister on Thursday, a new day began with the scream of mortar bombs and crackle of rifle fire.

A Rwandan resident said there was "an orgy of killings out there".

Fires raged in the city as rebels and soldiers battled around parliament and people from the minority Tutsi and majority Hutu tribes fell to slaughtering each other.

"They fight, then rest, then resume. It's calm one moment, then suddenly there are explosions," the resident said.

In Brussels, the Belgian government – former colonial power in Rwanda and neighbouring Burundi – said soldiers had killed 10 Belgian U.N. peacekeepers on Thursday.

U.N. officials feared violence between Rwanda's Hutu and Tutsi tribes would spread outside the capital, battered by its worst clashes since the start of civil war four years ago.

The U.N. Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR) appealed to Rwandans to end violence and urged countries that helped broker a peace accord between the rebel Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) and the government last year to act to restore order.

The rebels already in Kigali had been based in parliament since December after they entered the city peacefully to take part in the peace plan.

In one incident the Kigali resident saw government soldiers hack to death a young man they accused

of being an RPF fighter.

President Juvenal Habyarimana, a Hutu who took power in 1973, and Cyprien Ntaryamira, president of neighbouring Burundi, died when a plane bringing them back from regional peace talks in Tanzania was hit by a rocket on Wednesday night.

It was the first time in modern his-

tory that two heads of state were assassinated together. Who killed them was not clear. The predominantly-Tutsi RPF denied involvement.

U.N. officials said casualties from Thursday's violence were "surprisingly high", but further details were due to be issued today.

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