

UN chief asks Rwanda envoy to guarantee security

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GENEVA, April 8 (Reuter) - U.N. secretary general Boutros Boutros-Ghali said on Friday that he had asked his special representative in Rwanda to take steps to guarantee security throughout the country and especially in the capital.

In a statement issued by his spokeswoman in Geneva, he also said he was preparing an urgent report for the Security Council on measures to protect the 2,439 U.N. personnel and their dependents now in Rwanda.

Boutros-Ghali has been in touch with the warring tribes and with his special representative, Jacques-Roger Booh-Booh, a former foreign minister of Cameroon named to the top U.N. post in Kigali last November, the statement said.

“The secretary-general has been in touch with all parties concerned and his special representative in Kigali. He asked him to take all measures immediately to guarantee security throughout the country and particularly in Kigali,” it said.

“The secretary general is urgently preparing a report to the Security Council on the measures to take so as to protect the U.N. personnel in Rwanda.”

U.N. sources said any decision on evacuating U.N. staff from Rwanda would be taken directly by Boutros-Ghali, who arrived in Geneva on Thursday for a five-day visit.

He deplored the deaths on Thursday of Rwanda’s Prime Minister Agatha Uwilingiyimana as well as the 10 Belgians serving as U.N. peacekeepers who were assigned to guard her.

The flags at the U.N. European headquarters flew at half-mast on Friday in tribute to the Belgian “blue helmets.”

The U.N. Security Council last week renewed for four months the mandate of the 2,131 peacekeepers it now has in Rwanda, a former Belgian colony.

There are also 92 civilian staff working for the U.N. Mission for Assistance to Rwanda, as well as 102 employees of other U.N. agencies and their 114 dependents, according to a list provided by a U.N. spokeswoman in Geneva.

Many of the U.N. staff in Rwanda work in refugee camps taking care of people who fled Burundi when tribal massacres followed a coup attempt last October.

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