

UN chief deplores deaths, prepares report on Rwanda

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GENEVA, April 8 (Reuter) - U.N. Secretary-General Boutros-Boutros Ghali said on Friday he was preparing an urgent report for the Security Council on measures to protect U.N. personnel in Rwanda after the death of 10 Belgian soldiers.

In a statement read by his spokeswoman in Geneva, he deplored the deaths of Rwanda's prime minister as well as the 10 Belgians who were serving as U.N. peacekeepers in Kigali.

"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," the statement said.

U.N. sources said any decision on evacuating staff from Rwanda would be taken directly by the secretary-general, who arrived in Geneva late on Thursday for a five-day visit to the world body's European headquarters.

The Security Council last week renewed for four months the mandate of the 2,100 peacekeepers it has in Rwanda. There are believed to be hundreds of other U.N. staff serving as volunteers or in refugee camps across the country.

Boutros-Ghali's statement, referring to the murder of Prime Minister Agathe Uwilingiyimana, said : "The secretary-general firmly deplores these acts of violence as well as odious attacks on members of the U.N. assistance mission in Rwanda."

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