

France closes embassy in Rwandan capital Kigali

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PARIS, April 12 (Reuter) - France said it had closed its embassy in the Rwandan capital of Kigali after evacuating all its nationals who wanted to leave the war-torn country.

“Given the worsening of the situation, the French ambassador in Kigali has been asked to close the embassy,” the foreign ministry said in a statement, adding all French nationals who wanted to leave Rwanda had been evacuated.

“Our ambassador has withdrawn embassy staff after the evacuation of the French community, in liaison with the French military command on the ground,” the statement said.

It said that ambassador Jean-Michel Marlaud was on his way to Bangui in the Central African Republic.

The ministry said on Monday that 620 French people had left Rwanda, most of them aboard French military planes.

The statement did not say when the 500 French soldiers in Rwanda would leave the country. France has said its soldiers will not intervene in the fighting and will leave as soon as Westerners have been evacuated.

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