

U.N. says nine killed, 40 hurt in Kigali stadium

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KIGALI, April 19 (Reuter) - U.N. peacekeepers said nine refugees were killed and more than 40 were wounded when about 30 shells slammed into and around the national stadium in Kigali on Tuesday.

Officials at the United Nations Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR) said all 40 wounded were evacuated to the King Faisal Hospital in Kigali and the bombardment ceased after contacts with the army.

Initial reports from U.N. officers had said 20 people were killed and 50 were wounded when shells struck Amahoro Stadium.

“UNAMIR protested very strongly to the army chief about the shelling on the stadium and he appears to have contacted the army camp from where the shelling was coming and it has now stopped,” a senior official told Reuters.

“Shelling is continuing across the city but at a slower pace. The bombardment on the stadium was rapid and continuous.”

The official said UNAMIR and aid agencies were still unable because of the violence to take supplies to the estimated 4,000 refugees who had been forced to take sanctuary at the stadium.

The shelling between the rebel Rwanda Patriotic Front and government forces broke out a day after the U.N. representative to Rwanda called on both sides to show willingness to end all hostilities.

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