

## UN puts off aid flights to Kigali until Saturday

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GENEVA, April 22 (Reuter) - The United Nations on Friday called off two flights carrying emergency aid to Kigali, citing poor security around the airport of the Rwandan capital, U.N. officials said.

The decision to postpone the two flights until Saturday was taken by the U.N. Assistance Mission for Rwanda, known as UNAMIR, according to a Geneva spokeswoman of the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF).

One is a Canadian C-130 Hercules aircraft carrying five tonnes of UNICEF medical supplies. The other plane was to have carried a three-member U.N. mission to assess needs, as well as eight tonnes of medicines.

"The two flights were not able to take off today because of the security situation at Kigali airport," UNICEF spokeswoman Marie Heuze told Reuters. "They will leave on Saturday morning."

The Security Council on Friday unanimously voted to cut down its UNAMIR peacekeeping force to a bare minimum of 270 troops from the roughly 2,000-strong force there prior to the shooting down of the presidents of Rwanda and Burundi on April 6.

Thousands are reported to have died in tribal bloodletting since then.

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