

Eleven Belgian U.N. peacekeepers killed in Rwanda

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KIGALI, April 7 (Reuter) - At least 11 Belgian U.N. peacekeepers were shot and killed by members of the presidential guard in the Rwandan capital after being disarmed, a U.N. spokesman said on Thursday.

"Thirteen Belgians were sent last night to investigate the crash at the airport. Elements of the presidential guard stopped them and asked for them to hand over their arms," U.N. spokesman Mukhtar Gueye said.

"They cooperated and did so and were then detained. We have now recovered 11 bodies. Two are still unaccounted for. They were dead from

bullet wounds. You can call it an execution," he told Reuters.

The troops, part of the 2,500-strong, 20-nation U.N. Assistance Mission in Rwanda, were sent to investigate the crash of the Rwandan presidential jet at Kigali airport on Wednesday night.

Rwandan President Juvenal Habyarimana and Burundi President Cyprien Ntaryamira were killed along with two Burundi ministers and five Rwandan officials and the French crew when a rocket hit their plane.

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