

Belgium puts paratroops on alert for Rwanda

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BRUSSELS, April 8 (Reuter) - Belgium has put a unit of crack paratroops on alert for a possible evacuation of foreigners from its former African colony of Rwanda, government sources told Reuters on Friday.

The sources said a unit of several hundred men had been put on alert late on Thursday and would be ready to leave at short notice if the government decided to evacuate some 1,500 Belgians and possibly other foreigners living in Rwanda.

"They are ready to go when and if we decide they should," said one source, who asked not to be identi-

fied. The sources declined to say how many paratroops were on alert.

With the Rwandan capital Kigali plunged into anarchy, the Belgian government was scheduled to hold an emergency cabinet meeting later on Friday to decide on possible action.

Ten Belgian soldiers serving with U.N. forces in Rwanda were killed on Thursday as they tried in vain to protect the country's prime minister. Fighting and looting have swept Kigali since the president was assassinated on Wednesday.

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